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TRANSLATION

OF

The Peking Gazette

FOR

1873.

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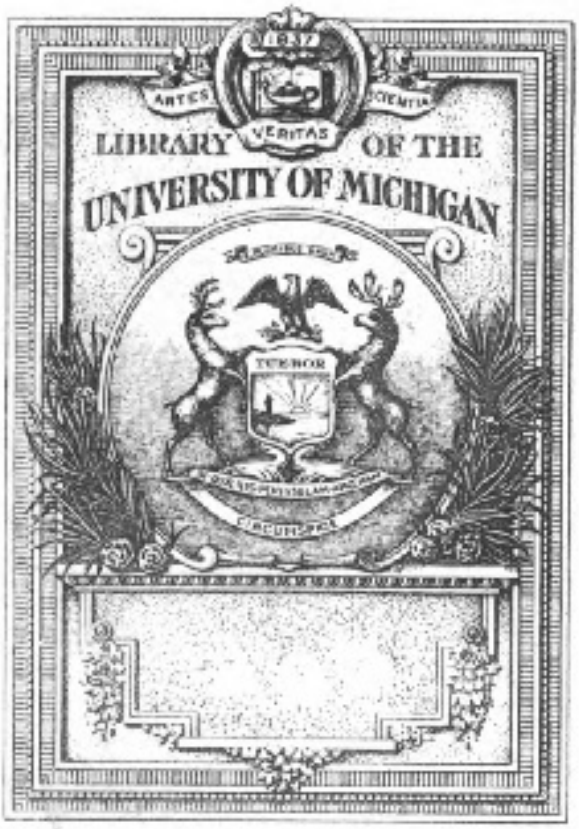

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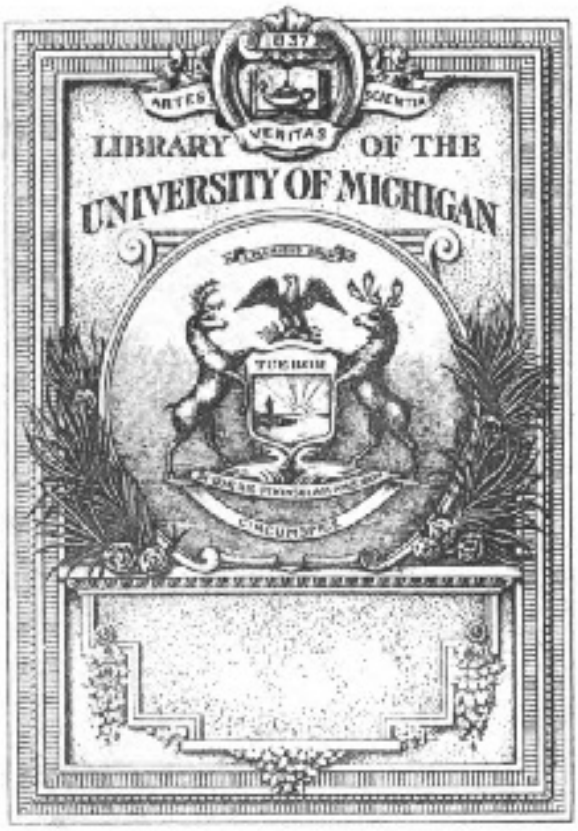

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TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1873.

SHANGHAI:

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD, AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE."

1874.

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ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

1873.

January 4th.—To-morrow, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the Emperor will proceed from the Palace to the Chung-ching Temple to burn incense.

A petition was forwarded to the Emperor a short time ago, by the Footae of the province of Shense, complaining that the Public Instructor in the district of Hing was incapacitated, by old age, for the proper discharge of his duties; and praying that the official might therefore be deprived of his office. The Emperor gave his consent, and the Footae was entrusted with the execution of the sentence. In consequence however of delay on the part of that official, the Public Instructor died before being formally deprived of office. The Footae therefore now forwards a further communication to His Majesty, charging himself with culpable carelessness, and neglect of public business, and beseeches His Majesty to inflict an adequate punishment upon him. The Emperor orders the proper Board to forgive the Footae.

(2) The Footae of Honan prays the Emperor to inflict capital punishment upon a notorious criminal. The culprit is a military officer formerly of the rank of Tsëen-tsung, but already deprived of that rank in consequence of robberies committed by him. He has since been found guilty of coining copper cash and adulterating silver money; and is, besides, the associate of thieves and robbers. The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

Jan. 5th.—A petition has been received from the Footae of Che-käang to the following effect. The District Magistrate of Sëen-kin has resigned his post, having been transferred to the District of Shih-mun, and a communication has been received from the proper Board recommending three officers as candidates for the vacancy. The first candidate being prevented by illness from accepting the office, the Foo-tae prays that it may be conferred upon the second, named Shin Chung-suy, on whose behalf he had already petitioned the Emperor. His Majesty orders the Board for the appointment of officials, to take the matter into consideration.

(2) A further communication from the same official refers to the promotion of the Che-foo of Tae-chow to the rank of Taou-tae, and prays the Emperor to nominate some one to the vacant post. The petitioner adds, that the expectant Che-foo, named Chin-keung, is an officer of ability and fully equal to the proper discharge of the duties of that office, and he therefore prays His Majesty to appoint him to it. His Majesty consents.

(3) Le Hung-chang prays the Emperor to promote a deserving officer. The candidate is decorated with the peacock's feather, and has already been promoted to the rank of Adjutant-General. He formerly accompanied the petitioner in an expedition against the Rebels, has received several wounds in engagements, and is well acquainted with the tactics of war. He is an honorable man, intelligent, and a strict disciplinarian. The Grace of Heaven (*i. e.* the Emperor) is implored on behalf of the officer, that further honours may be conferred upon him. The Emperor consents.

Jan. 6th.—I, the Foo-tae of Shang-tung, named Ting Paou-ching, Junior Guardian to the Heir Apparent, and an Officer of the first rank, humbly present a communication.

Your Majesty recently issued an order that I should investigate a certain case, and I have now done so in conjuction with the Criminal Judge.

Seu Sze-tae is an inhabitant of the District of Tsaou. His brother, Seu Wan-sew by name, has been for some time acquainted with a man named Lew Pun-leih, with whom he was for a period on good terms. One day Seu Wan-sew requested their eldest brother, named Seu Hih-hoo (the Black Tiger) to borrow 200 cash from Lew Pun-leih. The latter refused to lend the money and also gave Seu Hih-hoo a beating; and the two combatants were at last separated by some persons who were looking on. In consequence of this quarrel, an ill feeling arose between Seu Wan-sew and Lew Pun-leih. Shortly after this incident a relative of Seu Wan-sew, named Seu Yow-mei, who

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resided at a distance, fell ill and died, and was buried at the place where he died. Seu Wan-sew being now at enmity with Lew Pun-leih turned this incident to the injury of the latter, and conceived the plan of going to the office of the District Magistrate to inform against him, to the effect that he had killed his relative with a spear and had hidden the body in the ground. This plot coming to the ears of Lew Pun-leih caused him no slight uneasiness, and he therefore employed persons to go to Seu Wan-sew and arrange the matter with him. Seu Wan-sew, however, refused to come to terms, and going to the District Magistrate's office brought an accusation against him there. The magistrate, as the body was not produced, refused to try the case; so Seu Wan-sew went to the Che-foo and laid the matter before that official. The Che-foo replied that he would send orders to the District Magistrate to try the case; but the latter, as before, declined to investigate the matter. Seu Wan-sew then went to the Tacu-tae with his complaint, and that official replied that he would issue orders to the Che-foo to try the case. The Che-foo then arrested Seu Wan-sew and put him in prison for safe keeping.

Seu Wan-sew's father, now dreading the consequences of his son's crime in lodging a false accusation, offered money to the police runners to change his son's name, but they refused to comply with his request; and in the meantime, before the trial came on, Seu Wan-sew fell sick and died in prison. Sow Sze-tae about this time returned from a distant place where he was engaged in trade, and hearing the whole story, without making a proper enquiry into it, went to the District Magistrate's office to offer his evidence in the case, but the magistrate declined to examine him. He then came up to Peking and lodged his complaint at the Tsung-li Yamun, so that the case at last came to the knowledge of your Majesty.

Your Majesty's decision in the matter was to the effect that Seu Sze-tae did not intentionally desire to inflict injury upon any one. But the laws state that, if two men strive together, and one kills the other with a spear; or if one man kills another through revenge, then such criminals are equally deserving of punishment. Further, if any one, without having himself clearly investigated a case, shall volunteer information concerning it, he shall receive 100 strokes of the bamboo, and shall be banished to a distance of 3,000 le. To do what one ought not to do, is punishable with 80 blows.

We have carefully looked into the whole matter. As Seu Wan-sew is now dead we need not give any opinion concerning his conduct, Seu Sze-tae is fully aware of his fault, and begs that mercy may be extended to him; there is no necessity therefore to punish him; still less is it necessary to do anything further regarding Lew Pun-lieh, as he is the injured party in the case.

We respectfully present this communication, and await further orders from your Majesty.

The Emperor replies that the Board of Punishments shall be ordered to report upon the case.

Jan. 7th.—I, Ying-yuen, President of the Board of Censors and a member of the Imperial Household, with others, kneel and petition in reference to a matter which has come to our knowledge, and pray for your Majesty's instructions.

Hwang Yuh-gan, Imperial reader and member of the Imperial College, with others, have forwarded evidence and a petition to my office, praying earnestly that I would beseech your Majesty to confer honorary posthumous titles in a certain case.

I, in conjunction with my Colleagues have examined closely into the matter. In their evidence the petitioners state that they are natives of the province of Hoo-pih, and on examination we find that To-shan formerly held in succession the offices of Che-foo of Seang-yang-foo, acting Che-foo of Woo-chang-foo, and finally acting Criminal Judge and Superintendent of the Imperial Granaries in the Province of Hoo-pih; he was a Manchu, of the Bordered Blue Banner, and held the literary degree of Keu-jin. He was chosen from amongst the members of the Board of Punishments, and sent to Hoo-pih in the third year of the reign of Heen-fung, to fill the office of the Che-foo at Seang-yang-foo.

At that time the Rebels from the Two Kwangs had penetrated into the prefecture of Tih-gan and the department of King-mun in the province of Hoo-pih, and each of these places being successively deserted, they at length approached Seang-yang. The officer mentioned, closely defended this place, the Literati and the people all trusting to him without fear. When acting Magistrate at Woo-chang, after the Rebels had been defeated at that place, he soothed and tranquilized the people, and repaired all devastations. A short time afterwards, the Rebels advanced and threw Han-yang into confusion, and again surrounded and attacked Woo-chang, whereupon he vigor-

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ously defended that place, and swearing that he would sacrifice his life in doing his duty, he caused himself to be let down by a rope from the city wall, and with his troops attacked the Rebels in the rear, killing some and taking others prisoners. The soldiers' rations afterwards coming suddenly to an end, and the city being in great danger, he again led his forces to the attack, and killed seven of the enemy. Being himself wounded in the arm, and the blood flowing into the sleeve of his dress, he quickly returned on horseback to his Ya-mun. He then handed over his seal of office to his soldiers, and committed suicide by throwing himself down a stone well in the courtyard.

Both the Viceroy Yang-pei, and the Commander-in-chief Kwan-wan have already petitioned your Majesty, and have received the assurance that this case should be taken into consideration, and the deceased commiserated according to the regulations regarding officers of the third rank, and with the liberality customary in such cases. Moreover the Literati and people of Woo-chang and Seang-yang have already implored permission to erect a tablet to this renowned officer, and in such case your Majesty has granted the prayer of the petitioners.

Having humbly examined the records concerning officers who have recently committed suicide, viz, the Che-foos Kiu Yun-mun, Tuh Pe-tsung, Wăn-ching, and Le Tsae-wăn; the Che-chow Le-yuen; and the Che-hëens Shang Na-poo, Le Pei-fuh, and Wang Ngan-show; I find that all these officers have had honorary posthumous titles conferred upon them by the Imperial bounty. Now To-shan's death was most pitiable, and corresponds in all the circumstances of it with the cases just cited; and therefore your Majesty is now petitioned to confer honorary posthumous titles in this case also. We having examined the evidence of Hwang Yuh-gan and others concerning To-shan the late acting Che-foo at Woo-chang, &c., dare not prevent the case from reaching your Majesty's ears. We have closely examined the original evidence in the case, and now respectfully and reverentially present the same for your Majesty's perusal.

The Emperor replies that the petition is recorded.

Jan. 7th.—I, Lew Yoh-chaou, the Viceroy of Yun-nan and Kwei-chow, deprived of rank but retained in office; and I Tsin-Yuh-ying, Deputy-Governor of Yun-nan, kneel and petition your Majesty in reference to certain officers and soldiers killed in Kwan-jih and Poo-neu-he. These places were for many years infested by rebels, of whom several ringleaders were caught and executed; and the officers and soldiers mentioned, were killed in engagements with them in E-tung and E-nan. In accordance with your Majesty's expressed will that all officers recommended for their bravery in the field should be rewarded, we respectfully present our report, and looking up, pray your Majesty to examine into the matter.

We find on examining the translations of former years that these officers and soldiers, belonging to E-tung and E-nan in the province of Yun-nan, attacked and defeated the rebels in the city of Ching-keang-foo; and after they had scattered each nest of rebels at Chuh-yuen, Keang-na, Le-tse, Mow-kih, and Na-to-jih, there still remained five places at Yüë-chay-heang in Ling-gan-foo from which the rebels were not yet driven out, and where they herded at no great distance from the province. The intention was, first to exterminate the rebels in these places, and then to drive out those in the West in order that all suffering might terminate.

We have already deliberated together on this matter, and have come to the determination to present a petition on the subject to your Majesty. When I Yuh-ying left the province in order to lead out the army and quell the disturbances, we marched by different roads to the attack, and rooted out each nest of rebels in Teen-sin and Yue-chay-heang: moreover, we swept away the entire entrenchment of rebels at Woo-shan, outside the city of Kwan-jih, broke down the four gates, and entered the city; all which transactions have been already successively reported to your Majesty.

We shall now take the names of other brave civil and military officers belonging to the encampments at E-tung and E-nan, and transcribe them all clearly and in order, and respectfully present the list for your Majesty's perusal; praying earnestly for your Majesty's favourable regard. Amongst these there are some whom we especially recommend for reward, as having exhibited extraordinary valour on all occasions, and who have already received commendation from your Majesty's vast and superabundant compassion.

This necessary petition includes all who have been promoted already to the several ranks of Corporal and Sergeant, together with the meritorious officers of higher grade, not at present employed; all of whose names are, in addition, recommended by us to be placed upon the Records of the Board of War. [The names of those who lost their

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lives during the troubles are next enumerated; viz., 60 killed and 51 who died of disease in the camp.]

Jan. 8th.—Chang-gan petitions the Emperor that he may be allowed to resign his office in consequence of illness. The Emperor refuses to accept his resignation, and allows him another month for the recovery of his health.

(2) An edict has been issued to the following effect. Petitions have been presented to the Emperor by the Censors, and also by a member of the Board which regulates appointments to official rank, on behalf of the District Magistrate of Ching-ko, in the province of Shen-si, on whom His Majesty is implored to confer posthumous honours. This Magistrate, by name She Tsŏ-lin, was killed in a most cruel manner by the long-haired rebels, in the reign of the preceding Emperor, on the frontiers of the province of Shense. The compassion of the Emperor is sought in consequence of the distressing circumstances attending his death. The Emperor grants the request of the petitioners.

(3) The Emperor is informed as to the amount of money expended on repairing the Canals and the Peih-lŏng lake in the prefecture of Hoo-chow. The nature of the repairs, the number of workmen employed, and the various sums actually paid are all mentioned in detail.

Jan. 9th.—A common servant, by name LeHwang-hen, having been found guilty of a grave offence, the Emperor is prayed to inflict an adequate punishment upon him. This man was formerly a domestic servant in Shang-ching in the district of Hoo-nan. He associated much with the writers in the office of the Che-chow. Assuming a false name he deceived his companions, represented himself as being a Kwang-chow man, and by bribery eventually obtained the office of assistant to the Che-chow. He also procured a literary degree for his son by bribery, and actually had him appointed an Examiner of the candidates for the degree of Keu-jin. Both of these men being guilty of such meanness, their case should be strictly investigated and the matter satisfactorily arranged. The Emperor has issued orders that the father be immediately deprived of his office and his sealed credentials taken from him. The purchase of a literary degree for his son must also be examined into, and the name assumed by the latter in order to obtain it must be ascertained. The son must further be deprived of his degree, and the whole case settled according to law, in order that the distinction in ranks may asserted, and the dignity of office maintained. The case is laid before the proper Board.

Jan. 10th.—An Imperial Edict states that from the commencement of the Winter season very little snow has fallen, and hence the land is much in want of moisture. His Majesty earnestly and devoutly looks for a change of weather in this respect, and considers that prayers should be respectfully offered in order to obtain a good fall of snow. In order to obtain this blessing, the Emperor will proceed to the Takuou Temple, on the 13th of the present month, to offer incense. His Majesty also issues orders to certain Princes and Nobles to repair to four other temples in Peking for the same purpose.

(2) Petitions have been presented from several districts, praying for a reduction in the grain tax in consequence of the incursions of rebels, want of rain, &c. The soldiers in the province of Keang-soo complain of the deficiency of their rations, and the Foo-tae petitions for an increase of allowance for them. The Emperor consents.

(3) The Emperor has issued the following Edict. The Censor Woo Fung-tsaou petitions, stating that he has received reliable information from his native place, concerning certain gentry and people, with matrons and unmarried women, who have suffered death; some losing their lives in action with the enemy, and some dying in a more lingering manner; but all being worthy of commiseration.

This Censor, besides receiving reliable information from Chĕ-keang, his native place, has also received a list of names amounting to 165 persons, both male and female; the first name on the list being that of the Keu-jin, Kin Yue-neuh, and we have given orders to the proper Board to investigate the matter.

Besides those who have already received honours, there are others, all of whom we have ordered to be recompensed according to law, and with due respect to the distinction of rank. Moreover we have given permission to the relatives of the deceased to collect money and build temples to their honour.

The deaths of the two persons Kaou Urh-shau, and Kaou-gŏ are singularly distressing; and we have ordered the proper Board to deliberate and bestow liberal marks of commiseration upon them in order to make known their faithfulness. The entire list has been made out and handed to the proper Board. Respect this.

Jan. 11th.—An Edict has been issued in reference to the petition of Kwei-chang and others, praying that the Manchu sol-

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diers who attacked and exterminated certain sneaking rebels, may have their names published and be rewarded according to the order of merit.

In the 9th month of the present year, some bands of Mohamedan rebels were sneaking about the city of Woo, and the Dukes Chĕ-ti'h-gan-twan and Too-poo-too-urh-tsz, leading out their forces, followed them up and finally exterminated them, having defeated them previously in several engagements at King-sih-too. The Emperor orders that they all be rewarded according to their several merits.

(2) The Inspector of the Salt Department at Canton, Chung Kĕen-kenn, petitions in reference to his further appointment as Criminal Judge.

In accordance with the commands of the Emperor, he has received the seal of the latter office, and now returns thanks to Heaven (the Emperor) for His bounty. On the 24th day of the ninth month, in the present year, he received notice of his appointment from the Viceroy and the Footae. In consequence of the promotion of the Criminal Judge Tseun-tŏ to the vacant post of officer in control of the Revenue for the province of Canton, he has been ordered to vacate his present appointment and to fill the post of Criminal Judge for a time.

(3) I your servant King-lin kneel and petition in reference to certain officials who have control over the affairs of the Palace, that their faithful services, in repairing the roads along which the Dragon Chair passes, at their own expense, may be rewarded. The evidence in this matter I respectfully transcribe and present, beseeching your Majesty to take the matter into consideration.

Tă San-ah, Wăn-yèn, and Hoo-puh, members of one of the Boards, together with the writer Lĕen-peih, have respectfully examined all the Imperial Dragon Chair sheds, belonging to the Imperial tombs, erected at the Nan-sin-ching gate, whence at all proper periods for offering sacrifice the Imperial attendants reverently carry out the Dragon Chair and pass along to the Great and Little West Gates. Because of the excessive rain which has fallen this year, the road outside the Great Western Gate was flooded, and the water washed it away to the extent of more than 30 chang in length, more than 10 in breadth, and to the depth of more than two feet. The road outside the Little West Gate was washed away to the extent of more than 40 chang in length, 13 in breadth, and two feet five inches in depth. The drains also were rendered irregular, thus making the road completely impassable.

On both sides of these roads are lands which are private property; and during the summer and winter months, when reverently carrying out the Dragon Chair, the bearers were always obliged to tread down the crops in order to pass along with safety.

From the Sinching Gate to the Imperial tombs, the distance is more than 10 le, and the pathway here had also been washed away in some places. All these damages have now been completely repaired, with the exception of the deep ditch along the road from the Great to the Little West Gate, which at present endangers the tombs. Earth ought to be carried without delay to fill this up, and stone steps should be built. The quantity of stone required for this purpose, however, is very great, and if it be purchased from a hill which is private property, and which is several le distant from the tombs, the excavating of the hill, and the carriage of the stone, will cause very great expenditure both of money and labour.

At the Fung-shwuy wall, towards the South, a quantity of stone has been left on the ground, which was not required by the masons, and my informants think of carrying away these stones so as to clear the Fung-shwuy space, and make it look neat; and thus render the Imperial road for the Dragon Chair still better adapted for use. Moreover the drains on each side of the road must be deepened, and willow trees planted at short distances, and then the entire road will be rendered durable, and secured from injury by water. If it be not quickly repaired, there is great danger that when rain again falls in excess, it will be still more difficult to put it in order.

The officials above mentioned have ever enjoyed the Imperial bounty, for which they have never yet made the slightest return, beyond always cherishing the remembrance of it in their hearts; and they now entreat me to petition your Majesty on their behalf. They make all these repairs themselves as a recompense, but they most certainly do not consider the matter to be worthy of your Majesty's consideration. If they only receive permission to order the preparation of the materials this winter, next spring they will collect the workmen together, and quickly make all the necessary repairs, in order to manifest their zeal.

I, your servant, have myself already examined the roads along which the Dragon Chair is borne; and, as these have not

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been repaired for several years, they are precisely in the state represented by the petitioners. Since these officials have applied for permission to make the necessary repairs at their own expense, they show themselves to be imbued with a public spirit. They desire, besides ordering the preparation of the necessary materials in order to commence the works next spring, reverently and according to propriety, to submit a full statement of the matter for your Majesty's approval, and for the information of the proper Board.

(4) Too Hing-ah presents a supplementary petition, and again addresses the Emperor in reference to a communication received from Duke No-lin-pe-lih Commander-in-Chief of the Mongol troops and Inspector of Batteries.

The horses under this officer's control have been used in the service for a length of time; and some of them are completely worn out, so that they are perfectly useless whenever it is necessary to go in pursuit of rebels. Now according to the representation of Prince Tă-urh-han, the officer commanding the second Battery named Pei-yen-tŏ-kih-ta-keuh-lih, together with the commanders of the third Battery named respectively Kih-hwang-poo-leih-tae and Sih-hwang-chŏ-puh, have each given 50 horses, 150 in all, to the public service.

Further, an inhabitant of Chang-tooting named Wang E-shun has presented 10 horses with a request that they may be inspected and received, and then distributed for use amongst the troops. This the Duke considers it his duty to inform the petitioner of, in order that the generosity of the donor may be made known.

The petitioner having examined into all these particulars concerning the presentation of horses to the Batteries for the use of the Soldiers, considers that they exhibit an amount of zeal in the public service sufficient to cause one to leap with joy; and truly it is not proper that such disinterestedness should be allowed to go unrewarded. The petitioner prays, not only that Wang E-shun may be presented with an empty button*; but especially, that His Majesty would deign to allow each of the three officers above mentioned to wear a peacock's feather in order to stimulate their exertions in the public service. The petitioner considers it to be his duty to implore His Majesty to give orders to the Officers of the cantonments to investigate the facts of these cases and to report.

The Emperor orders the proper Board to deliberate on the subject, and petition.

* The insignia of office without rank.

January 12th.—An Edict has been recently issued in reference to the Imperial Minister Ganlin, stationed at Latsau, who took it upon himself to confer a peacock's feather, and who further employed another person to perform his own duty of inspecting the soldiers' tents. Imperial orders were issued that the name of this official should be sent into the proper Board, that judgment might be passed upon him; and he was ordered to come up to Peking, that the case might be properly arranged. He was further ordered to remain for the present where he is, and diligently to discharge the duties of his office, as a newly appointed Imperial Minister has not yet been sent to fill his place.

Now, according to a petition received from this Gan-lin, Tih-t'ae has forcibly seized upon the seal of office, and he prays the Emperor to transmit His Majesty's instructions concerning this transaction. Tih-t'ae's petition does not accord with the sentiments of Gan-lin, in the original copies of dispatches forwarded to the Emperor. Tih-t'ae perversely put his own interpretation upon the orders transmitted to Gan-lin, giving them a false meaning; and pressed Gan-lin to give up the seal of office to himself, and to set out for Peking. Tih-tae is truly a dolt and incapable of filling the post of Assistant. Let him be deposed and return to his Banner. The proper Board is acquainted with the case. Respect this.

(2) Tso Tsung-tang presents a supplementary petition in reference to an acting General at Se-ning-ching and acting commander of the centre, named Ma Pun-yuen; together with the acting Chefoo at Se-ning-foo, named Ma kwei-yuen, both being Mahomedans of that place and acting officials there, and yet daring to indulge in wrong practices. They first invited the officers of the army to pursue after the Mahomedan rebels in Shan-se, and when they had made an advance for that purpose, these two officials caused the rebels to attack the soldiers, and besides, caused the whole body of the insurgents to attack the city of Se-ning-foo. Their wickedness is exceedingly great.

Now, because the soldiers utterly exterminated the insurgents, these two rebellious officers, being greatly embarrassed, absconded, taking their families with them. Hwang Poo-heen has been appointed General at Se-ning-ching; but, as he is at present in command of the troops stationed at Wei-yuen-paou to defend that place against the sneaking rebels, he cannot immediately fill his new appointment.

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The post of Che-foo at Se-ning-foo has been conferred upon Tang Ching-wei, who is at present presiding over the province of Shen-se, and therefore, also finds it difficult to assume the duties of his new appointment at once. I find that the commander-in-chief at Hoo-nan, named Ho Tso-lin, whose tactics and bravery are unexceptionable, might in the meantime be sent to fill the vacancy of General at Se-ning-ching, and the commander of the two cantonments at Suy and Ting, named Lung Seih-king, who has been at Shen-se in command of the Volunteers for many years, might at once follow to Se-ning, diligently to transact business and to fill the other vacancy there for the present.

The General's seal was taken away by Ma Pun-yuen when he absconded, and the seal of the Che-foo of Se-ning-foo, although found, cannot be used again. I had seals cut on wood when orders were first given to Tso-lin to act as General at Se-ning-ching, and when Lung Seih-king was sent as Che-foo to Se-ning-foo; but it is my duty to pray your Majesty to make the matter known to the proper Board, in order that metal seals may be cast for the General at Se-ning-ching, for the Che-foo of Se-ning-foo, and forwarded to them by express, in order that all business may be transacted so as to inspire confidence. Moreover, these, together with all other metal seals, ought to be sent up to Peking to be properly examined. I respectfully forward this supplemenary petition for your Majesty's perusal.—The Emperor replies that the case has been laid before the proper Board. Respect this.

January 12th.—A supplementary petition from Yang Chang-seun. According to a communication received from the Board of Rites, every official recommended to fill a vacancy as Taou-tae, Che-foo, Che-chow, or Che-heen, must remain a year in the province to which he has been appointed, in order that it may be seen whether he is able to undertake an arduous post, or is merely fit for a light one. This rule must henceforth be strictly adhered to.

(2) Tso Tsung-tang presents a supplementary petition. Examining into the suicide of Major Kin-sin, at Kaou-kea-paou, I find that he was one of the military officers appointed to keep the people in subjection at Yen-suy, in the province of Shen-se; and his death, which occurred in the 9th month of the 8th year of the present reign, caused a vacancy in that office. The then acting Imperial Envoy Muh-too-shen, petitioned the Emperor that Le Fa-ko, whose name stood first on the list of candidates, should fill the vacancy. Now, according to a communication received from Board of War in reply, they have not yet been clearly informed of the present rank of this officer who is thus recommended for promotion, and there are no means of ascertaining the facts of the case. They add, that the case ought to be minutely and clearly investigated, and the result embodied in a petition.

Since receiving this order from the Board to examine into the case, I have also received a communication from the Commander-in-chief at Shanse, named Nuy Ching-kwan, who has minutely examined into the successive steps of Le Fa-ko's promotion in corroboration of my petition, proving my statement of the case to be correct. In addition to this communication forwarded to the Board, I venture to beseech your Majesty to take this case into consideration.

The Emperor replies that the Board of War shall deliberate on the matter.

January 13th.—Lew Chang-yew presents a supplementary petition. The General appointed to the command of the troops at Yew-keang-chin, named Chow Shing-chuen, is at present in command of the Cantonment in Kwang-se, and cannot fill his new appointment immediately. In consequence of this, Whang Chung-king has been appointed to act for him for the present; who, although he has not, as yet, committed any error in the transaction of business, will nevertheless find it difficult to avoid remissness if he should remain at the post for any length of time.

I have been informed that General Keŏ-loo-tă-san, Assistant Adjutant-General at Tsing-chow, is upright in disposition and intelligent, and displays ability in controlling the soldiers under his command; I therefore implore Heaven (the Emperor) graciously to permit him to act as General at Yew-keang-chin. As the affairs of the Cantonment require the presence of an officer in order to their proper arrangement, I respectfully pray your Majesty to issue instructions on this subject.

The Emperor replies—Let the petition be granted. The Board of War has received the necessary information. Respect this.

(2) Lew Chang-yew presents a supplementary petition. I have received a despatch from the Board to the effect that, on the first day of the tenth month of the eleventh year of the present reign, an Imperial Edict was issued, ordering Fuh-urh-kwŏ-chun, the Criminal Judge of Kwangse, to come up to Peking to await orders, and ordering Yen Shoo-săn to fill the vacancy consequent upon his removal from office.

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Now, Fuh-urh-kwŏ-chun, according to his despatch forwarded to me, is fully aware that he ought reverently to obey your Majesty's orders, and immediately set out on his journey, and he therefore requests me to send an official at once to fill his place. I find on examination, that Yen Shoo-sän cannot, for some time, go to that province. Fuh-urh-kwŏ-chun must necessarily go up to Peking, and the duties of his office as Criminal Judge must be discharged by some official sent temporarily for that purpose, in order that the importance of official business may be maintained. I find on examination that Seay Ke-chaou, the Taoutae of Yew-keang, is possessed of deep and accurate knowledge and ability, and may be entrusted to fill the office for the present; and that Ling-kwan, expectant Taoutai, who is both active and diligent, may be allowed to fill the post vacated by the latter official.

Besides sending despatches to these officials, it is my duty to present this supplementary petition.

(3) I. Hea Tsze-yang, the Literary Officer of Szechuen, reverently kneel and petition, informing your Majesty that the examinations for the year are now complete, and presenting the report for your Majesty's perusal.

I humbly submit that, when in the sixth month of the present year, I returned to this province, the examinations both in the Eastern and Northern districts had terminated, and I wrote a despatch on the subject, for your Majesty's information. After I had forwarded that despatch, I immediately rode express to the Western part of the province, to conduct the examinations at Keung-chow, Ya-chow, and Ning-ynen-foo, where, according to custom, the yearly and triennial examinations are both held.

Now, in the middle period of the ninth month, the examinations at these places were all brought to an end. A literary spirit was manifested at Keang-chow, at Ming-shan in Ya-chow, and at Se-chang in Ning-ynen, almost to the same degree as in the Eastern parts of the province; and besides, there were several districts which ranked second to these in the display of literary talent.

In the Military examinations, in the use of the Bow, in Horsemanship, and in general dexterity, the youth of the chief city of Keung-chow excelled, and other places ranked second to this. At each place where I have held an examination, I have strictly shut every door and closed up every way of approach, in order that those graduates who, in forgetfulness of their duty to the public recommended unqualified candidates, might be discovered and degraded. I always search out those who write themes for others, together with those who assume false names, and I hand them over to the proper authority in order to be dealt with rigorously, in order that other candidates may strictly obey the rules. When these examinations are over, I go by express to the provincial city, in order to hold the triennial examination for Ching-too.

The present is the year for selecting students for the degree of Keu-jin, and the candidates must be strictly examined in order to cut off those who are undeserving of promotion. Again I return from Keen-chang and the surrounding districts to the provincial city, the by-roads by which I journey being dangerous and difficult to travel by. Within the boundary of Meen-ning are two mountains, and men like monkeys, who are all nevertheless quiet, and do not venture out of their nests to cause disturbance. In autumn the crops there are most abundant, sufficient to soothe your Majesty's breast.

The annual examinations in the Province of Sze-chuen being all completed, and the transactions at each place being reverently transcribed in accordance with my duty, I kneel and present my petition for your Majesty's perusal.

(4) Wang Wän-shan presents a supplementary petition to the following effect.

In the Province of Hoo-nan, at the first payment of tribute, the name of a former Che-hëen of Ling-ling, viz., Hoo Ting-hwae, appears on the list, as having paid out more than 83,000 Taels.

On examination I find that this entry has reference to the expenditure of an officer who lived at the beginning of the reign of Hëen-fung. When the Kwang-se rebels sneaked off to Ling-ling in Hoo-nan, which was the first place in which they caused disturbance, the expenses consequent upon driving them off were very great; and the amount received from the Treasury not being much, it was necessary to borrow money from the country gentlemen and merchants, under a promise that it should be returned when peace was established; all of which is already on record. Afterwards, however, as the money in the Treasury was small in quantity, none was granted for the purpose, although frequently asked for. All this took place many years ago; and since it is not convenient to levy a tax, the only resource is to implore your Majesty to add to the number of Civil and Military officials, and thus the meri-

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torious zeal of these persons in the public service will never be forgotten.

Now, I find that in the 9th year of the present reign, the Board of Revenue, with the consent of your Majesty established a new regulation, to the effect that in return for levies made in any province, the number of graduates should not be added to more than once. I think that at the time when Hoo Ting-hwae borrowed money to pay the soldiers, he immediately petitioned on the subject; and also that the compensation made at other places, after the affair was over, was different from that made in his own district. Moreover, the gentry and merchants who lent the money lived in the beginning of the reign of Hëen-fung, and the rewards were granted in the 6th year of the present reign, before the new regulation came into force. It is my duty to bring before your Majesty the fact, that if any province subscribes 20,000 Taels, the number of Civil and Military officials may each, according to the old rule, be increased by one appointment; so that, since the district of Ling-ling has subscribed 40,000 Taels, four additional appointments may be made to their number at the place, in order to extend promotion and inspire gratitude.

I have received communications from Criminal Judges and Taou-taes connected with the office for the compensation of contributors to the supplies of the army, begging me to petition on the subject; and I find no error on again investigating the present case. May I be permitted to look up and earnestly implore the grace of Heaven (the Emperor) to grant that, for the 83,000 Taels, the entire sum borrowed by Hoo Ting-hwae for the payment of the army, three additional appointments may be made to the Civil and Military posts, from the old residents of Ling-ling, and one from the more recent residents. From what year this selection is to commence, I pray your Majesty to inform the proper Board, in order that instructions may be issued accordingly.

Besides this, I pray your Majesty to add to the number of Literary Graduates at the native place of any officer who may contribute money for the public service. But, in case such officer does not state in his application that he possesses a receipt to prove that he has so contributed, I respectfully pray that his application for compensation, in accordance with this regulation, may be refused.

The Emperor orders the proper Board to deliberate and petition.

January 14th.—Yang Chang-seun presents a supplementary petition as follows. In the neighbourhood of the Tăe-hoo lake on the boundary of the provinces of Keang-soo and Chĕ-keang, the streams are numerous, and for some time past robbers have been in the habit of suddenly rushing out and again disappearing, lying in wait to plunder. They open places in which they assemble together to gamble; and defend their stolen property, bolting in and out of the Customs barrier. There is no wickedness which these men do not perpetrate. Hitherto each Foo-tae has given orders to seize them and to deal rigorously with them, and great numbers of them have been already executed. Afterwards, the two Provinces uniting their forces together, Puh Seau-urh and others were seized and put to death; after which, all traces of robbers gradually ceased. At the commencement of the present year, the merchants travelled without molestation, and the inhabitants lived in peace, but in the sixth month these robbers re-appeared, and passing in and out of the barrier defended their stolen property. They grasp weapons and resist the soldiers, showing plainly that they are remnants of the old gang who have escaped, seizing a favourable opportunity to crawl out of the net. If these culprits are not speedily exterminated it will be an easy thing for them to excite sedition.

Since making a clear enquiry into this matter, I have notified the names of some of the robbers, and given orders for their arrest; also, I have ordered the Chefoo expectant, named Lin Tsoo-shuh, and the expectant assistant Chefoo, named Chow Kwang-koau to unite with the authorities of each Foo and Heen, and without regard to boundary to search every place; sending special orders on the subject to Keangsoo. Before long, I received intelligence that more than thirty thieves had been caught in succession. In Keangsoo province the ring-leader Tseen Kin-sang has been captured, and I have sent orders to the Chefoo of Keaou-hing, named Heu Yaou-kwang to bring him to trial, as he has been guilty of frequent acts of violence and robbery, besides resisting the authorities and carrying off women. His wickedness is great beyond all bounds, and there need be no hesitation in putting him to death. In accordance with an Edict issued by your Majesty, I have sent orders that he be executed at the place where his crimes have been committed, in order to serve as a warning to others. And with regard to the others, their crimes being of less magnitude, I have ordered that they be punished according to their several deserts. I have also sent orders to the various Civil

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and Military authorities, whenever they have an opportunity, diligently to go in search of robbers.

On inquiring into the case of these culprits, I find that they have all, for many years, been addicted to the practice of violence and wickedness, and have even dared to league together in one traitorous band, scheming how to perpetrate frequent acts of lawlessness; truly they are a most trifling and stupid set!

When these men first commenced their depredations, the officials sent to deal with them immediately gave themselves up to searching them out, and arresting them, in order to establish tranquillity, and banish danger from these localities; thus soothing your Majesty's breast. There are also other officials, both Civil and Military, who have in a lesser degree distinguished themselves in this affair, from whom I ask your Majesty's permission to select a few for reward, in order to encourage them and to stimulate them to greater exertion.

The Emperor replies; let all these officials be rewarded, but not rashly in excess of their services. Respect this.

Jan. 15th.—I, Keaou Sung-nëen, presiding over the Yellow River to the coast of Ho-nan; I, Wän-ping, acting Viceroy, superintending the transit of grain, and presiding over the Revenue of the province of Shantung; and I, Ting Paou-chên, holding the office of junior Guardian to the Heir apparent, and Seun-foo of Shantung, kneel and petition with regard to making provision for the transit of grain during the coming year. We have met together and examined into the dredging of the River and the repairing of its banks, and we have calculated the expense of repairing those parts which chiefly require attention for the convenience of travellers. We implore your Majesty to condescend to glance at our report.

We are humbly of opinion that before we can arrange the transit of the grain, we must first put the river in order. Formerly, when the course of the Yellow River and the Grand Canal separated, the Grand Canal at the south of the Province, according to an ancient regulation, was partially dredged once a year, and thoroughly dredged once in every three years, so that every junk coming from the South could sail along without obstruction. From the time when the waters of the Yellow River mixed with those of the Grand Canal, the latter have suffered serious detriment, becoming gradually more and more shallow and obstructed. The grain from the places to the north of the Yang-tsze has been transmitted by the Yellow River for several years, and we are of opinion that, should this shallowness of water again occur, as heretofore, wherever the defect may be, the only means of regulating the Grand Canal will be the cleansing out of the Yellow River. As the entire labour and expense must necessarily be great, and the work cannot be accomplished in a short space of time; from all the places which require repair along the Grand Canal, those which most require attention ought to be selected and repaired first, in order that the grain junks may be able to pass along without obstruction.

Jan. 16th.—The Viceroy of Chih-li petitions on behalf of Tih-shing, an officer presiding over the Koo-pih-kow Government Express, who is also one of the officers appointed to manage the affairs of Dependant States, and a member of the Board which regulates appointments to official rank. The term of three years for which this officer was appointed to preside over the Koo-pih-kow express having expired, the petitioner prays that he may be allowed to remain in that office for another year, in consequence of the diligence and ability shown by him in the discharge of his duties.

(2). The Seun-foo of Shen-se petitions that the Che-heen of Yan-kang-heen may be deprived of office in consequence of his inability to control the thieves in his district. These robbers go in and out of the city through an aperture caused by the falling down of a portion of the city wall. They armed themselves on one occasion, and entering the shop of a money-changer, forcibly took away all the silver and cash they could find, and wounded the owner of the house. They also attacked the neighbours who cried out for assistance, and wounded some of the watchmen and police who came to secure them. The petitioner prays that this inefficient officer may be handed over to the proper Board for punishment.

(3). Tseng Yuh-yuen petitions the Emperor that Fan Keung-chang, an expectant assistant Che-foo, may be permitted to fill, temporarily, the vacancy caused by the late decree which deprived Tseen Mow-ling, the Che-foo of Ta-le-foo, of office.

(4). Hwang-yu, member of the Imperial Council, petitions the Emperor on behalf of certain gentry and people, including women, of his native place, Gan-hwuy, 622 in number; and also on behalf of 216 graduates, all of whom committed suicide on the approach of the rebels. The petitioner implores that permission may

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be given to collect subscriptions and to erect a monument to their memory.

Jan. 18th and 19th.—The Emperor issues a decree as follows.

The Censor Woo Hung-gan petitions in reference to the numerous thefts daily committed in the city of Peking. He prays that orders may be issued to put a stop to such practices, and to pursue and arrest the thieves. Peking is the venerated city through which the wheels of the Imperial chariot roll, how then can it be turned into a place for blustering thieves to carry on their disorderly practices? Since, according to the petition of this Censor, frequent robberies are committed both within and without the city, and but few of the thieves have been arrested; this virtually nullifies the established law, that the Police are to be reprimanded if they cannot arrest robbers within the time allotted for doing so.

The soldiers at the various military stations do not patrol their allotted bounds in pursuit of thieves, so that frequent robberies take place. This is certainly a neglect of duty on their part. We order the City Censors to issue strict orders to the officials in their Yamêns, diligently to examine into this matter, and to arrest all thieves. If any concealed thefts are allowed to go unpunished, the careless officials in such cases must be immediately deprived of office, and information of the matter must be forwarded to us. And, in cases where, as heretofore, the thieves are not arrested within the limit of time allowed for their capture, then the delinquents must be reprimanded, and the slightest degree of leniency must not be exercised towards them, in order that all vestiges of robbers may be purged away, and the city properly protected.

(2) His Majesty issues the following decree. An officer in control of the Imperial Household petitions with regard to a theft which has been discovered on an examination of the armoury in the Twan-mên-low, and His Majesty is requested to order an investigation. All the arms used by the soldiery are stored up in the Twan-mên-low; and heretofore, the Hoo-keun-ying garrison have had orders to mount guard there. In the tenth month of the present year, the officer of the guard discovered, on examination, that swords in this armoury were deficient to the number of ninety-three, and the arrow cases to the number of eight. On the 15th of the present month, the officers on guard, on first going into the armoury to examine the number of arrows, perceived that on the eastern side of the building a window had been forced open; but this was not regarded as being at all suspicious, and was only looked upon as the result of carelessness; which was certainly a most disgusting idea of theirs. Further, the guard themselves have been guilty of the theft. Orders must be issued to the officer of the guard to investigate this matter. The breaking open of the window was entirely owing to the negligence of the soldiers on guard; let them therefore be handed over to the Board of punishments to be strictly examined; and let the officer of the guard who has been so remiss in the performance of his duty, be also handed over to the Board for punishment, in order that it may be known henceforth with what rigour and closeness all places under guard must be scrutinized. His Majesty commands the officer of the guard to deliberate as to the best means of establishing greater security in future, and to petition on the subject. The statements contained in the present despatch, with regard to the armoury having been entered by thieves during the eighth month of the first year of the present reign; these thieves being still at large; and, the guard not having yet been rigorously punished, each of whom imitated the carelessness and neglect of his companions, His Majesty commands that the Board of punishments petition as to the true state of the case.

January 26 and 27.—According to an Edict issued, Tso Tsung-tang petitions in reference to the loss of certain boxes of small sycee during the passage of the Yellow River. He prays that the lost money may not be exacted, but that the officer appointed to convey it be punished; and also, that orders may be issued to search for the thieves who have divided and secreted the plunder.

Woo-Jin-show, the Tung-cho who has since been forgiven and restored to office, was sent from the department of army supplies at Shen-se, to Yun-chêng in the province of Shan-se, to convey the tribute paid by the Canton Merchants, amounting to 60,000 Taels. In the 6th month of the present year, while conveying the boxes across the Yellow River, a sudden storm arose, the boats were overwhelmed by the winds and waves, and 11 boxes of sycee, containing in all 11,000 Taels, were lost overboard. After this occurrence, Chang Mih-hung and others, boatmen of Yung-tse-hëen, were examined as to the dragging of the river and dividing and concealing two boxes of sycee. Besides the 1,200 and odd Taels which were dragged for and recovered, there still remains a sum of more than 700 Taels which was stolen by Yang

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Hih-moon and others. In the second place the officer in charge of these boxes was not sufficiently careful, and his fault in this respect cannot be excused. His Majesty commands that he be handed over to the Board for reprimand. The Seun-foo of Shan-se is also commanded to give strict orders to the authorities to appoint a limited time for the pursuit and arrest of the thieves who dragged the river and stole the money, in order that they may be punished, and not suffered to escape out of the net. With regard to the remaining 9,000 Taels lost overboard; since evidence has been adduced that this sum was lost in a storm which suddenly overwhelmed the boat in which it was being conveyed, His Majesty, of his bounty, forgives the loss of that sum, and further orders that the entire matter be arranged as decreed. The proper Board is informed of this decision. Respect this.

Jan. 29th—31st.—The Imperial Astronomical Board present a communication to the effect that the wind now arises in the Kăn * quarter, so that longevity may be expected.

(2.) The officer who takes the oversight of all branches of the Imperial family, has cast a Horoscope and presented it for His Majesty's inspection.

(3.) To-morrow † His Majesty will eat meat; at 7 o'clock A.M. He will take His seat at table.

(4.) To-morrow (Jan. 31st) His Majesty will go out at the Hwa-yuen-mên gate, pass through the Shin-woo-mên, and enter the Pih-shan-mên, passing along the Se-shan-loo road to the Show-Hwang-Tien temple. When His Majesty has concluded his worship there, He will return to the Palace by the same route. Let all preparations be completed by 7 o'clock A.M.

(5.) The President of the Board which presides over appointments to official rank, together with the President of the Board of War, and the President of the Board of Censors, have each presented a return as to the general observance of the day of abstinence.

(6.) To-day (Jan. 31st) the Emperor reverently sacrificed at the temple of Ancestors. King-fŭh, a Shaou-king of the Tae-chang-sze, read the prayers on this occasion in a loud clear voice, and has, therefore, by His Majesty's bounty, been rewarded with a peacock's feather. Respect this.

* The Kan Diagram of the Yih-king; one of the eight divisions of the Universe.

† Jan. 30th; the day after New-Year's day. His Majesty sacrifices and abstains from meat on the first day of each year.

Feb. 1st.—His Majesty announces that, on the fifth day of third month (April 1st), in compliance with the expressed wishes of the two Empresses, He will set out for the following purposes. On the 8th reverently to worship at the Tung-ling tomb; on the 9th, the festival of Tsing-ming, to perform the ceremony of heaping earth upon the Ting-ling tomb. Thence he will proceed to the Lung-gan-tëen temple, to offer the great sacrifices to the dead, and thus respectfully announce to them the ardent affection of their child. These ceremonies ended, His Majesty will return to the Palace on the 12th. His Majesty commands each Yamen reverently and diligently to arrange beforehand, and according to established law, the various ceremonies proper to these occasions, and to make all necessary preparations. Respect this.

Feb. 3rd.—An edict is issued conferring the appointment of Viceroy of the Two Keang upon Lo Tsung-he, and commanding His Excellency to arrange and regulate all mercantile transactions ‡ His Excellency is ordered to repair immediately to his new appointment, there being no necessity for him to come to Peking for instructions. Respect this.

Feb. 5th.—The Emperor issues the following Edict. Chang Shoo-shing petitions Us, especially advising against the employment of inefficient officials. He informs against the expectant Che-foo of Kĕang-soo named Fêng Kêng-tseuen, and others, five in number, all of whom We order to be deposed from office. Amongst these, however, is Yen Yung-kiai, the District Magistrate of Kĕang-yèn-hëen, whose constitution is weak, and he therefore can hardly be expected to use much exertion. This officer's literary attainments are nevertheless excellent; and We therefore, while ordering him to vacate his present post in order to add weight to official rank, require him to send in his name to the proper Board, in order that he may receive an appointment as Public Instructor. For the rest, we order that the terms of the petition be granted. The case has been notified to the proper Board. Respect this.

(2) An Imperial Edict is issued to the following effect.

Chang Shoo-shing petitions with reference to certain Volunteers who have made a pretext to cause disturbance, and prays that the Sergeants of the Cantonments to which they belong may be punished, each according to his guilt.

A Cantonment for instruction in Military exercises, has been for some time estab-

‡ Between Chinese and foreigners.

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lished at Fung-hwang-shan, within the boundary of Tsing-poo-hëen, in the province of Keang-soo. In the sixth month of the past year, Ho-king the acting Viceroy of the Two Këang, hearing that the Adjutant-General of the Vanguard, named Ching Tsung-e, and Wang Kin-yuen the Adjutant-General of the Flank Division, were both incapable of managing their troops, immediately deposed them and appointed two other officers in their place. The Volunteers of these two Cantonments hearing that these two officers were deposed, forthwith dared, on pretence of talking about rewards due to them, to collect together in a crowd, and to raise a clamour, almost amounting to a mutiny. After this, it appeared on investigation, the four Sergeants, Le Chun-lin and others, connived at the disturbance. Because at the time that the Commander-in-chief of the Cantonments, by name Chëng Hae-aou, resigned his post and returned to his native place, rewards were bestowed upon the soldiers, the present delinquents, following their own inclinations, now demand rewards under false pretences, and even go so far as to excite a disturbance. Assuredly there must have existed an intention to connive at all this.

Although the two deposed officers were not guilty of the crime of deducting from the soldiers' allowances, yet, from the time of their vacating their posts, the petty officers and volunteers under their command assembled in crowds to extort money. All this trouble has arisen from an inability to control their soldiers on ordinary occasions, and both officers are alike guilty in this respect. We command that both be degraded to the rank of Tsan-tsiang; and that the four sergeants Le Chun-lin, Ching Tsung-jin, Ching Kea-tsai, and Le Kin-tae be deprived of their rank. Le Kin-tae, however, in originating the disturbance and in making a pretext for extortion, is more guilty than the others, and we therefore command that he be sent to Hih-lung-keang, to fill the office of an official suffering punishment, in order to assert the dignity of Military law. Let the others be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the petition. The proper Board is acquainted with the case. Respect this.

(3.) The statesman Yih-hwan (Prince Shun-ta'ing) humbly petitions with regard to the Imperial Records. It is essential that a Record should now be compiled of past reigns, in order to manifest obedience to the law, and to preserve a register of the successive transactions of previous Emperors.* I respectfully write this present document, stating the matter clearly; and looking up, I pray your Majesty to deign to glance at it.

I have reverently read the Preface to the Record made by the Benevolent Ancestor and Intelligent Emperor,† and I find there that in the 23rd year of the reign of Kang-he, that Emperor gave orders that a Record of the Ta-tsing Dynasty should be composed. The Ancestor of Ages and Magisterial Emperor Yung-ching, in the second year of his reign made important additions to that Record. In the 12th year of Këen-lung, the preceding additions to these Records not being sufficiently clear, an Imperial Edict was issued to separate distinctly and classify each event. In the sixth year of Këa-king, that Emperor granted the petition of the Censor Leang Shang-kwo and deputed a high official to open an office and revise the Records. These Records terminate with the 17th year of the Emperor Këa-king, and the transactions of the 60 years which have elapsed to the present time have not yet been recorded.

I respectfully consider that the sacred virtues, the divine merits, and the perfect knowledge both of Civil and Military affairs which characterized the Emperors Këa-king, Taou-kwang, and Hëen-fung, also adorn the character of the Empress-Mother, who for 12 years listened to the discussion of the affairs of State from within the screen; and whose excellent regulations, and vast virtue, have established peace within the four seas. All Her Majesty's plans and regulations should be accurately and successively recorded. Your Majesty, being now about to ascend the throne, may with propriety record in succession the virtuous deeds of previous Emperors, and for that purpose appoint a high official to open an office and to make a Record, in order to display especial State transactions. We can thus accurately record in succession the most important decisions of former Emperors, which is the subject of my present petition to your Majesty. Whether the matter can be accomplished or not, I humbly leave to the decision of the Empress-Mother and your Majesty.

Feb. 7th.—Ying-yuen petitions the Emperor for his decision with regard to a man who killed his cousin with a spear, in a quarrel which arose about the building of an embankment to divert a water-course

* These Records are composed at the completion of each Cycle of 60 years.

† Kea-king, father of Taou-kwang.

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from a field.—Also, with regard to the case of a person who killed the younger brother of a literary student. The murderer quarrelled with the deceased in consequence of the latter refusing to allow a stream of water to be diverted from his own land to that of the former.

Feb. 8th.—Chang-gän, a member of the Board of Punishments, petitions that as his leave of absence has now expired, and he is not yet restored to health, a still longer term of exemption from his duties may be allowed him. His Majesty grants the petitioner a further leave of absence to nurse himself.

(2) Woo Hung-gan, a member of the Board of Censors controlling the affairs of the Province of Shan-tung, kneels and petitions, imploring His Majesty's instructions with regard to the proper examination of themes, in order that the dignity of literary attainments may be maintained, and true talent drawn out.

The petitioner sees from the Court Gazette that the Censors Yuen Chêng-yëö and Woo Fung-tsao, with Wang Kae-tae the Seun-foo of Foh-këen province, have each addressed the throne with regard to the rigorous prohibition of all underhand practices in the places of public examination, and that they have already received His Majesty's instructions on the subject. Looking up, and contemplating the stimulus given by His Majesty to all literary pursuits, the Petitioner, ever respectfully bearing in mind His Majesty's profoundness of intellect, ventures to suggest that those appointed to select the successful candidates, should unquestionably prohibit all improper practices with the utmost rigour, and that those who inspect the themes should use the greatest care in the performance of their duties.

The Petitioner states that when he became a member of the Han-lin, there were two strict investigations of all themes, by which means he was enabled to ascertain that the number of those candidates who possessed considerable talents was by no means small. Purloined essays, and unmeaning compositions resembling fishes eyes and clouded gems could not, of course, be altogether done away with. Moreover, if any of those candidates whose names appeared on the list of successful competitors at the local examinations in Peking, were either reported by their fellow students as having purloined their themes, or whether detection arose from two themes being exactly alike, in either case a tremendous clamour was always excited. This was reasonable, because the number of vacancies for degrees being limited, all those who succeed in obtaining them by any other means than that of solid merit, do so at the expense of men of learning; and their subsequent expulsion is assuredly worse than their not being permitted to enter the examination hall at first. The petitioner therefore considers it his duty to beseech His Majesty to issue stringent orders that future candidates shall all diligently study the meaning of the Classical Books in order to the elucidation of the profound mysteries of the Sages and Worthies. The persons appointed for that purpose should also rigorously examine the themes and make selections from them, utterly rejecting all meaningless and incorrect compositions.

The Petitioner further prays His Majesty to insert all these regulations in the code of laws relating to the management of the Examination Halls, and to command their strict observance henceforth, in order that all may tremble and obey, and that literary compositions may daily, as incense, ascend higher and higher. The Petitioner adds that whether his stupid and blind suggestions are feasible or not, he humbly leaves to the decision of the Empress-Dowager and His Majesty.

Feb. 8th.—Woo Hung-gan presents a supplementary petition in reference to the daily increase of robberies in Peking; the propriety of issuing orders to the officers of the various military stations rigorously to search for all those who shelter the thieves; and the importance of arresting the culprits and thus quieting the minds of the people.

The petitioner has recently heard a rumour that depredations committed by thieves both within and without the city, have latterly been of more frequent occurrence than in former years. Some families have even been plundered twice over, for it has sometimes happened that thieves, because the master of the house attacked has afterwards called in the assistance of others to proceed to arrest them, have in consequence returned and robbed him a second time. The petitioner states that when he received his appointment from the Emperor, on assuming the duties of his new office, he found that the number of thieves arrested at the military stations was exceeding few, in proportion to the number of robberies committed; and that the law which commands that those officials who do not arrest the perpetrators of robberies within a certain period should be reprimanded, had almost become a nullity. Moreover, in the places under the control of the military stations, the soldiers would not patrol and scrutinise each dis-

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trict, so that, consequently, robberies were of frequent occurrence. If then some means be not adopted to put an end to this state of things, how can the peace of orderly families be secured, or the robbers be put down?

The petitioner considers it to be his duty to pray the Emperor to issue orders to the Tung-ling Yamên, and also to the Censors at the five points of the City to give strict orders to their subordinates, diligently to search out and arrest all thieves, without shewing the least mercy. And if, as heretofore, there still be any robbers who have not been brought to justice, or any families who shelter these depredators, let these officials send in accurate information on the subject to their superiors. Further, if the thieves who commit robberies at any of the five points of the City be not arrested within the limit of time assigned for their seizure, then, those who are thus negligent in the performance of their duty should be immediately presented at the Shan-tung Censor's office, in order to be reprimanded according to law. The soldiers of each station should also receive orders thoroughly to patrol every part of their districts, so as to keep each tithing in order, and see that the street gates are kept in proper repair. If they meet with any suspicious looking characters in their rounds, they may at once conclude that there are harbourers of thieves in the neighbourhood, and they should give information of the fact to the proper authorities, in order that stringent precautions may be taken. The officers and gentry at the five points of the City, should combine together and lead on the shopkeepers and residents to arrest these thieves, giving their undivided attention to the matter, and not regarding it in the light of an ordinary affair of no consequence. Thus all vestiges of the robbers may be swept away. The petitioner states that his object in presenting this petition, is, secure the arrest of all the culprits referred to: and as to the feasibility of his plans, he humbly awaits the Imperial decision.

Feb. 9th.—An edict has been issued in reference to the following case. King-leen petitions with regard to an official messenger who has been tried for carelessness in the movement of troops, and he prays His Majesty to punish the offender with severity.

Kwei Hung-yuen, the already degraded Foo-tsëang, was sent by the petitioner, in the spring of last year, to reconnoitre the neighbourhood of Sha-shan-taze, with a view to settling matters there. He did not perform this duty efficiently, but dared to regard his commission merely as a means of obtaining éclat. He wrote a despatch to the Governor-General of Chang-yu-chun, ordering that official to advance his troops, and stating that there was no necessity whatever to give any information about the matter to the Too-tung. The result was, that the troops coming into collision with the enemy, without proper precautions being first taken, were defeated; a most mistaken and blundering affair! This Kwei Hung-yuen has been banished by the Emperor to Hih-lung-këang, to exhaust his strength in hard labour, and all the officers of the various Cantonments along the entire route, have been strictly forbidden to petition for his detention at any station during his journey to that place. Respect this.

(2) An Imperial Edict has been issued relating to a vacancy in the Army caused by the fatal illness of E-lüh-tun, late Commander-in-chief at Pa-le-kwän. This officer was entrusted with the defence of that city, which had frequently suffered from the attacks of the accursed Mahometans. In the fifth and sixth years of the present reign he again and again drew up his troops, in order to retake Hö-meih, which had fallen into the hands of the rebels; and he discharged his duty honourably on all occasions. The illness of this officer having now terminated fatally, his case demands the exercise of the deepest compassion, and His Gracious Majesty orders that his name be forwarded to the proper Board, in order that some mark of commiseration may be conferred, in accordance with the laws respecting the death from illness of officers on duty. His Majesty further orders that Sha-kih-too-lin-cha-poo be appointed to fill the vacancy thus caused, and that he proceed with the utmost expedition to that station. Respect this.

(3) I, Ying-yuen, your slave, respectfully pray your Majesty's decision with regard to the following case.

It appears on evidence that Chang Ke-seen, the father of a person residing at Tse-tung-heen, in the province of Shan-tung, named Chang Tsäng-yëë, was beaten to death by Le Chung-tsze and a band of ruffians armed with bludgeons. When this case was first brought before us, your Majesty's slave and others gave orders to an official to examine minutely into the matter. According to the evidence, Chang Tsäng-yëë is a native of the district of Tse-tung-heen in Tse-nan-foo in the province of Shan-tung; is 26 years of age; and lives at Yay-kea-chwang in the aforesaid district, gaining his livelihood by

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agriculture. His sister-in-law Le-she being on improperly familiar terms with a sharper named Kih Show-le, and this coming to the knowledge of his father Chang Ke-sëen, the sister-in-law absconded from her family and hid herself. After this occurrence the plaintiff went to Tsow-ping-heen to buy garlic, never giving a thought as to any injury likely to happen to his father, or as to his body lying lifeless on the land belonging to Chang Shing-tsze, and being buried by Yang Yung-këen; all of which happened during his absence. When he ascertained these facts on his return, the plaintiff laid his complaint before the Che-hëen, praying the Magistrate to exhume the body and to hold an inquest upon it in order to discover the facts of the case. He also prayed that the witnesses Wang Kung-chuen and others might be summoned into court and examined. During the course of the inquest Le-she confessed, in her evidence, that her brother Le Chung-tsze and others banded together and murdered the deceased. After the inquest, however, Kih Show-le bribed the police who, like ants, devour people's substance, and set Le-she at liberty. The plaintiff then went and laid his case before the Che-foo, who wrote to the Che-hëen to the effect that he should just pursue after and arrest Le-she and Yang Yung-leen. The rest of the banditti were concealed by a violent country gentleman named Le Lüh-keih, belonging to the clan of Le-she. Le Le-tsze and Kih Show-le both absconded. The case was further laid before the Criminal Judge, who also issued orders to the Che-hëen to arrest the culprits. The latter, however, remaining still at large, and the plaintiff in consequence becoming anxious about the matter, he forwarded a statement of his case to Peking.

Having examined the evidence of this Chang Tsäng-yöö against Le Chung-tsze and others, respecting the murder of his father, I give full credence to it, and consider it my duty to prosecute and punish the criminals, as a warning to doltish bandits, and to assert the value of human life. I have carefully transcribed the original evidence in this case, and now respectfully present it, waiting for your Majesty's instructions. A respectful petition.

(4) Another petition has been presented to the throne by the same official, in reference to the case of a Shantung man whose grandson was killed in a quarrel which arose between him and a dealer in grain, with regard to the price of some provisions purchased.

Feb. 11th—I, Chang Shoo-shing, formerly acting as Seun-foo of Keang-soo, and recently appointed acting Tsung-tüh of the Two Keang, kneel and respectfully announce to your Majesty that I, the obscure official, have surrendered my seal of office to my successor, on setting out for my new appointment at Lëang-këang; and I pray your Majesty to glance at my statement.

I recently had the honour to receive your Majesty's commands to act as Tsung-tüh at Lëang-këang, when I reverently wrote to return thanks for Heaven's (the Emperor's) bounty, and to assure your Majesty that I shall exert the utmost diligence in arranging the public affairs of the provinces under my jurisdiction. His Majesty replies: The matter has been intimated to the proper Board. Respect this.

Feb. 13th.—An Imperial edict has been issued to the effect that as, on the 26th of the present month, His Majesty purposes to assume the reins of government, after that date all the Provinces and the Nobility on coming to offer congratulations on the birth-days of the two Empresses, or New-year's day, must on each occasion present their Majesties with a jade-stone Joo-e. Respect this.

(2.) I, your slave, Ke-chun, a member of the Board of Censors, and superintendent of the Eastern quarter of the city, kneel and petition your Majesty with regard to certain places suffering from disastrous circumstances. The taxes due on these lands have been already remitted by Imperial bounty, but the husbandmen still suffer in consequence of the failure of the crops, and are placed in a most pitiable condition. I pray your Majesty to issue orders to the local authorities to examine into the matter, in order that the Imperial benevolence may be more widely diffused, and the hearts of the people comforted.

Your Majesty's benevolent rule and pity for your people are well known. Wherever lands suffer from inundation or from drought, your Majesty's bounty is immediately experienced there, a remission of the taxes due is conferred; the suffering people receive comfort and commiseration, and plans are devised for the amelioration of future distress. This year every Chow and Heen in the entire district to the South-east of Peking has suffered from continued inundations, and Imperial orders have been frequently issued for the relief of the people under their distress. Truly the Imperial bounty is abundant and enriching as the dews of heaven! But, that this exceeding favour should be enjoyed by the rich land-proprietors is an easy matter to accomplish, while, on the other hand, it is a difficult thing to secure its full enjoy-

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ment to the poor. Those of the people who cultivate their own lands are numerous, while those who merely cultivate land for others are by no means few. To the Eastward of Peking, for instance, the custom in each district has always been for large farmers to portion out their land to tenants who pay a yearly rice-rent, which is never diminished in quantity. When the harvest happens to be plentiful, then the full rental on each *mow* is of course paid, but if the year has not been a good one in this respect, then, although there is no grain with which to pay the rent, which should therefore remain due, the landlords press for full payment, and the tenants are not able to pay in due time. The landlords then, only thinking of recovering the debt due to them, bring the tenants into Court and prosecute them, and then the latter are fettered and imprisoned—a most distressing and intolerable calamity, by all means to be dreaded and avoided. Afterwards these oppressed tenants wander about without settled abode, and in a most pitiable condition. Your slave has heard that in the district of Paou-te-hëen, several scores of villages are now suffering from this cause. Your Majesty remits the tax on the land, and the rich landlords make this a pretext to fatten themselves. Truly this is to nullify the compassion which dwells in the heart of the Empress-mother and in your Majesty's; and also the deep anxiety which your Majesties both entertain with regard to the misfortunes of your people.

It is my duty to pray your Majesty to direct the official presiding over Shun-tëen-foo to examine into this matter; or to make what regulations may seem to be suitable to the circumstances of the case, and to issue a proclamation on the subject; in order that no husbandman may be rendered homeless, or be without an overplus to make up for a bad harvest; and that tenants may be protected from the oppression of landlords. Thus may the minds of the people be set at rest, and the Imperial benevolence be received with gratitude by all.

(3) Chang-ting-yoh and Ah-urh-tah-shih-töh petition in reference to a communication received from an officer attached to a certain Cantonment, by name Shaou-hăng.

This officer, at his own request, was appointed some time ago to do duty at the Cantonment in Koo. He has now been residing at that place for more than a year, during which time his chief object has been to recompense the favour of his sovereign by the diligent discharge of his duties. Shortly after his arrival at Koo, however, he suffered from loss of power in both legs, so that he had great difficulty in walking; and the soil being damp and the winds cold, his disease increased so much that he could not obtain any relief from medical treatment. When, on a future occasion, there arose a necessity to defend the place against the attacks of the rebels, not wishing to be an impediment to the success of military operations, he petitioned for leave to return to his Banner, in order to get medical advice with a view to his speedy recovery.

The petitioners state that on investigation they are persuaded that the illness of this officer is by no means feigned; and they find that while he was at his post, he discharged all his duties faithfully. The Emperor grants the petition.

Feb. 15th.—Le Han-chang, the Governor-General of Hoo-Kwang, and an officer of the first rank, petitions the Emperor with regard to the miraculous interposition of a certain deity for the defence of a place under his jurisdiction; and the petitioner begs His Majesty to erect a tablet in commemoration of the event.

A temple to the god of war stands within the Western gate of the city of Seang-yang-foo, in the province of Hoo-peh, and responses to prayers have been frequently obtained at this shrine. In the sixth year of the reign of the Emperor Hëen-fung, rebels of the place attacked the city, and made their chief assault upon the west gate, where there were, at the time, but few soldiers stationed. And, although both the soldiers and the resident gentry took vigorous measures to repel the attack, yet they were eventually overcome by the superior number of the enemy. The rebels were now, however, observed to retire suddenly and in confusion, and on enquiry being made of the suffering people on their return to the city, it was ascertained that the rebels saw a bright flag waving over the city, and a tall General, having a long beard and arrayed in green garments, calling up his troops, whereupon they immediately fled, overcome by fear, and thus the threatened danger to the city was happily averted.

Feb. 15th.—Yong-hang presents a supplementary petition on behalf of Yu-lüh a Revenue official, who in the 7th year of the present reign presided over the Army supplies, when a great inundation occurred in Gan-hwuy. During the consequent distress, this officer, by his excellent management, procured sufficient supplies for the soldiers from other places, and the

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petitioner prays that he may be rewarded with a peacock's feather.

The petitioner further prays that Wang-sze who has twice acted as Criminal Judge in that province, and who has succeeded in arresting and bringing to justice several ringleaders of the rebels, may be promoted. The Emperor grants both petitions.

(2) Another petition has been presented by the same official, praying the Emperor to excuse an able and talented Taou-tae for not coming up to Peking at the appointed period to present himself at Court. He is prevented from doing so in consequence of the commencement of the ploughing season, during which time his presence is required at his post in order to suppress any irregularities or disturbances which may arise.

(3) Toh-lun-poo addresses the Throne with regard to his receiving the seals of his office and proceeding without delay to occupy his new post. On the 23rd day of the tenth month of the eleventh year of the present reign, the petitioner received a despatch from the acting General, Chang-shan, to the effect that the latter had orders from the Emperor to act as General in command at Woo-le-yaou-soo-tao, while the petitioner himself was ordered to act as Ts'ant'au-tachin at Ko-poo-to. On the third day of the eleventh month, the petitioner returned thanks for the Imperial bounty, and set out on his journey. The weather at that time appeared to be excessively cold on the frontier, and as the snow was several feet deep he was obliged to use camels and horses in order to pursue his journey, and thus moved on step by step to the place of destination. On the 13th day of the twelfth month he arrived at the city of Ko, and on that day received the box containing his seal of office from a messenger named Ming-kwei sent by Chang-shun. The petitioner then placing the seal on a temporary altar prostrated himself before it, in token of gratitude for the Imperial bounty, and thus completed his appointment to office. The Emperor acknowledges the receipt of the communication.

Feb. 17th.—The Council of War has received verbal instructions to the effect that, subsequent to His Majesty's accession to the Throne on the 26th of the present month, whatever Civil or Military official desires to be presented at Court, must first give in a statement of his position and rank, according to the regulations made on this subject in the reign of the Emperor Taou-kwang, and also in the first year of the Emperor Heen-fung's reign.

(2) The Emperor issues the following Edict. King-ling petitions for money from the Treasury for important repairs. During the third month of the present year, We respectfully received the commands of the two Empresses to visit the Tung-ling tomb. The bridges, however, and the entire road through the different stages require repairing, as well as the Imperial reception palaces; and these repairs should be attended to without delay. The Yung-tse and Chow-po treasuries being quite empty at present, King-ling prays us to take 12,000 Taels from the Provincial Treasury for this purpose; and we accordingly command Le Hung-chang to send orders to the Provincial Treasurer to pay out this sum, and to appoint an officer to convey it to the Tung-ling tomb about the first day of the second month. There must not be the least delay in paying out the money at the time appointed, lest the accomplishment of the necessary repairs be retarded. Let King-ling immediately appoint an officer to see that this money is used economically, and that all the work is carefully done. And, when the money has all been expended, We require King-ling to draw out an exact statement of expenditure, separating the various items, and to send in the account to the Board for inspection. Let there not be the slightest attempt to falsify the account. Respect this.

Feb. 19th.—The Emperor issues an edict. King-gan and Chun-jew petition Us with regard to certain tombs which have been broken into by thieves, and they implore Us to issue orders that the matter be inquired into, and the thieves arrested. The tombs of the concubines of the Prince Lun-choo, and the Prince Chun-shan, situated at Urh-le-kow outside the Se-chih-mên gate were broken into by thieves and robbed during the first month of the present year. The tomb of the late Tartar General of the city named Chun-ting, which is situated outside the wall of the aforesaid tombs, has also appearance of having been broken into. Now, the laws provide that those who break into tombs must be punished for their crime; and, assuredly, those ought to be visited with still more severe punishment who go the length of breaking into the ancestral tombs of Princes, which are situated in the very precincts of Peking. These thieves are evidently a fearless and dissipated set of ruffians, and the thief-takers are careless in the extreme. We command the police of the Tung-ling Yamun, and of the five divisions of the city, to inquire into this matter, to arrest the thieves without delay, and to send them up to the Board to

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be punished. And we further command that the watchmen at the tombs be strictly examined in order to discover whether they have been accomplices in this robbery or not. Let these orders be strictly attended to as a warning to all doltish villians. Respect this.

(2). An edict. Too-hing-ah petitions that leave may be granted to an officer of the Imperial Body-guards, to return to his post at Peking, and that he may be rewarded for his services.

Lo-poo-to-urh-cha-foo is an officer of the first rank in our Imperial Body-guards. He recently accompanied Too-hing-ah with troops to the southern districts of Tëen-tsin, in pursuit of the rebels. Shortly afterwards he was sent to Fung-tëen to reconnoitre, and to defend that place against the Insurgents; and he remained there for five years, from first to last diligently discharging his duties. All these services are certainly meritorious to a certain degree, and we therefore command that he further be appointed Foo-too-tung in order to shew that strenuous exertion always meets its reward. This officer is also permitted to return to his post at Peking. Respect this.

(3). The Emperor has issued orders to the Astronomical Board to select a propitious day, either in the third or fourth month of the present year, for commencing the repairs at the Imperial tombs.

(4). The Seun-foo of Chĕ-këang petitions with regard to the Che-hëen of Chang-hing-hëen, who was deprived of office in consequence of embezzling 2,100 Taels tribute money paid into his treasury. This officer has now, however, returned the money within a certain period allowed him for doing so, and the petitioner begs that he may be re-instated in his office. The Emperor grants the petition.

Feb. 20th.—Ying-yuen petitions with regard to a sum of Tls. 50,000 at present lying in the office of the Superintendent of the salt trade at Lëang-hwae, and prays that it may be appropriated to the repairing of the Imperial tombs. The Emperor grants the petition.

(2) Le Hŏh-neen petitions with regard to the Che-hëen of Ning-hwa-hëen, in Ting-chow-foo, in the province of Fŭh-keen. This officer has twice defeated the rebels in that locality, and was wounded in one of his engagements with the enemy. Notwithstanding these services, however, on his removal to Nan-tsing-yuen, he was guilty of embezzling a sum of money, and was tried for that offence. His attempted explanation being unsatisfactory, the petitioner prays the Emperor to deprive the criminal of office, and to issue orders that the matter be further investigated.

(3) The Seun-foo of Shan-tung petitions the Emperor to add one Civil and one Military Keu-jin to the list of officials in the provinces of Chĕ-keang and Kwang-tung, as the Literati and Merchants of the former place have subscribed 304,000 Taels, and those at the latter 119,000 Taels, towards the supplies of the troops engaged in the expulsion of the rebels. The addition to the Chĕ-keang list to be made *in perpetuum*. The Emperor commands the Board to consult and report.

21st.—An Edict. We have been favoured with instructions from Their Majesties the Two Empresses on the following subject. The triennial examination into the merits of the officers of the Imperial household is intended as an incitement to virtue. All those officials within and without the Empire, both Manchus and Chinese, who reverently attend to the affairs of their various offices, and surpass others in the diligent discharge of their duties, deserve to be especially distinguished above the rest, and to be rewarded in order to manifest the exuberance of the Imperial regard for them. The period has now arrived for holding at Peking this usual investigation into the merits of the various officials, and the Board which superintends all Civil appointments has handed in a list of names for Our inspection.

The Prince Kung is our chief assistant in the government. He has for a long period shown diligence in the discharge of his duties, and has always given his entire attention to Our service; neglecting no affair of State whether of greater or minor importance. His strenuous endeavours in our service are worthy of all praise, and he is deserving of our unlimited confidence. We command the overseer of the Imperial family to take the Prince's merit into especial consideration. Wĕn-tseang a member of the Imperial Council, Paou-keun President of the Board of Punishments, and Le Hung-tsaou, President of the Board of Works have all been faithful assistants in arranging the affairs of government, and have shown the utmost care and diligence in the discharge of their duties. We command the proper Board to take the services of these officials into consideration, and to consult how they may be rewarded. Le Hung-chang the Governor-General of Chihli, and member of the Imperial Council, has given his whole attention to public affairs, his vigour and diligence in the discharge of his duties are of the highest order. Tso Tsung-tang the Governor-General of Shansi and Kan-suh, has shown, in his

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deliberations, both justice towards the people, and fidelity to his sovereign, he has managed difficult matters and affairs of moment. We command the proper Board to deliberate as to the reward which ought to be bestowed on both these officers for their services. As to all the other officials, we command them to continue as usual in the faithful discharge of their duties.

(2) His Majesty has issued orders to the Council of War, that all the Princes and Nobles who come out to receive His Majesty on his return to the city on the eleventh day of the third month (from the Imperial Tombs), shall merely wear their usual official dress.

(3) Ting Paou-chin presents a supplementary petition. Bearing in mind the sanctity which attaches to cities as the residences of the Magistracy, the utmost diligence ought to be exercised in patrolling and guarding them; and in every locality in which robberies have taken place in consequence of neglect in this respect, the petitioner has immediately deprived the careless Magistrate of office. Now Tih-tsuy the Che-hëen of Yu-ching-hëen, and Sung Tsoo-tseun the Che-hëen of Chang-shan-hëen have sent in information to the petitioner that, during the tenth month of the past year, thieves in both their districts have battered down doors and broken into houses, stealing both money and clothes. In each of these places the booty carried off amounted to more than ninety Taels, and the thieves have neither been arrested nor pursued. Such negligence as this virtually annuls the laws which command the arrest of thieves; and the petitioner therefore considers it his duty to pray His Majesty to deprive the two Magistrates aforesaid of their offices, and to appoint a limit of two months for arresting the thieves, and bringing them to trial.

His Majesty grants the petition, and orders the Board of War to punish the two Magistrates according to the prayer of the petition.

(4) The same official presents another supplementary petition in reference to the following case. Shuy-sang the Che-heen of Lae-yang-hëen has forwarded information that Sun-she, the daughter of a scholar named Seun King-ling an inhabitant of his district, has from her earliest years been betrothed to a student named Chang Tsae-han, the son of Chang Hung-kew a resident in the same district. The marriage, however, never took place. In the fifth month of the sixth year of the present reign, the Rebels sneaking into that district caused disturbance, and Chang Tsae-han was killed in an engagement, while leading on a party of volunteers to attack them. On the retreat of the rebels, Sun-she, hearing of the death of her betrothed husband, was so grieved that she no longer desired to live. Her relations frequently advised her and endeavoured to comfort her; but she herself resolutely made a vow of perpetual virginity. On the third day of the ninth month of the present year, it will be five years since this girl has gone over to the family of the betrothed husband, to mourn for the deceased and to observe her vow. She has during this period acted with dutiful affection towards the mother of the deceased, and all her neighbours extol her virtue. The petitioner having examined into the matter, and finding all the particulars of the case to be correct, implores his Majesty to take it into his gracious consideration, and to confer a mark of distinction upon the girl. His Majesty grants the petition.

(5) The Governor General of Fuh-këen and Chë-keang provinces, and the Seun-foo of Fuh-këen province, petition against an expectant Che-hëen in charge of the district salt tax-treasury, for appropriating public money to his own use, and falsifying his accounts. The petitioners pray that he may be degraded from office, brought to trial, and punished. His Majesty grants the petition.

22nd—King-lin the overseer of silk manufactures of Nan-king, petitions that seven petty officials who have had some trouble in the transmission of silks and satins to Peking for the Emperor's wedding outfit, may be rewarded. The Emperor grants the petition.

Feb. 23rd—The Emperor issues two Edicts, in the first of which His Majesty acknowledges His obligations to the two Empresses, who for more than ten years have listened behind the screen to the affairs of State, and have favoured his Majesty with their wise and valuable counsels. Through the exertions of their Majesties, in connection with those associated with them in the government, all disturbances have ceased throughout the Empire, and the kingdom enjoys peace and tranquillity. His Majesty expresses His fears lest through inability He may not properly discharge His onerous duties as sovereign of the Empire, and He calls upon all the Princes and State officials to co-operate with him in all future endeavours to promote the welfare of His subjects.

(2) In His second Edict, the Emperor commands the several yamêns to make all necessary preparations for His Majesty's worship at the temple of Fung-seen-tëen,

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in imitation of the example of the previous Emperor.

(3) The Emperor respectfully acknowledges the receipt of instructions from their Majesties the two Empresses, exhorting Him to continued diligence in the pursuit of those studies which are necessary for the thorough education of a wise and virtuous sovereign, as well as in the practice of those warlike exercises and feats of horsemanship for which His Majesty's Ancestors have always been renowned.

Feb. 27th—An Edict is issued by the Emperor in reference to the petition of three officials regarding the assembling of troops in Yun-nan and Kwei-chow, and their driving out the old nests of rebels from Sin-ching, thus clearing the entire water course to the province of Kwei-chow, of these marauders. The boundaries of Sin-ching in Kwei-chow, and Ping-e with other Chows and Hëens in Yunnan are contiguous, and the Mahometan rebel Kin Wan-chaou with his bandits herded together in a central point for the purpose of committing depredations in both provinces. Lew Yoh-chaou and others gave orders to the troops of Yunnan and Kwei-chow to unite together and to pursue and exterminate them: also, to destroy utterly all the haunts of those rebels. In consequence of these orders, great numbers were taken prisoners and put to death.

On the fifth day of the tenth month of the past year, the Te-tüh Chow Taou-woo led on the troops in person, and uniting his forces to those of Shin Show-yung pressed forward to the city of Sin-ching, and forced an entrance at the South Gate. He seized the head Mahometan bandit Kin Wan-chaou with others, put them to death, and utterly exterminated all the chief leaders of the rebellion, besides recovering the city of Sin-ching out of their possession; and thus, the entire water course leading to Kwei-chow was completely cleared of rebels.

All the Civil and Military authorities engaged in these transactions are commanded to forward their names to the Board, that they may be rewarded according to their several degrees of merit. Also, those who have fallen in battle must be commiserated according to merit, in order that the souls of these faithful servants of His Majesty may rest in peace. Respect this.

Feb. 28th.—An Edict. The Censor Woo Hung-gan presents a petition respectfully expressing his own limited views of matters, and as it were looking at heaven through a small tube. The petitioner treats of the several duties of regulating our actions so as to approach our conduct to that of the wise; weighing the capabilities of each official, and commiserating our subjects; discriminating between truth and falsehood in words, and examining into the correctness or incorrectness of alleged facts. Not one of these duties can possibly be dispensed with. In now taking upon ourselves the management of the numerous affairs of State, we must exercise caution and diligence both by day and by night, and not venture to indulge, in the least degree, in luxurious ease and idleness. We must also trust to the Imperial Princes, the Chief Ministers of state, and higher officers of each province, to assist us with their counsel; so that haply great advantage may arise from the collection of various opinions and our subjects may enjoy tranquillity. It is, in fact, a matter of the greatest importance that none but men of ability should be employed in governing a country. We have already issued orders that the higher officials of each province shall only recommend men of known ability, for office; and always carefully enquire into the capabilities of each candidate. If there be found any officers who are distinguished above others for their wisdom and abilities, then let these be recommended to us, as opportunity occurs, in order that they may be appointed to official positions.

From the time that our army has been successful in engagements with rebels, the pay of the soldiers has not been sufficient for their necessities, and We have no means of further replenishing Our treasury. The petitioner informs Us that the officers and gentry who have had the care of the provincial treasuries, have frequently made the public service an excuse for appropriating money to their own use, and have abstracted whatever sums they pleased. This is a most hateful and detestable affair! We command the Tsung-tuh and the Seun-foo of each province to look into this matter in future; and, if such disgraceful conduct is repeated, let the delinquents be immediately degraded and punished. We further command the Board of Revenue to keep an exact account of all sums paid into the treasury from each province, in order to put a stop to such delinquencies.

When petitions are presented to Us, each official petitioning must address Us with perfect sincerity of heart. Hereafter the petitions of all Censors must clearly and minutely state the merits and demerits of Our government, and the grievances of Our subjects, in order that we may be enabled to form a correct decision in each case. All the Presidents of the various

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Boards in Peking, together with the highest officials of the provinces whose positions give weight to their statements, should, according to opportunity, give especial orders to their subordinates to use the utmost exertion and diligence in sifting each case so as to arrive at the truth; and should enjoin them by all means to avoid glossing over matters, or practising culpable compliance with circumstances; which conduct is only calculated to set at nought the frequent and urgent cautions given them by their superiors. Respect this.

March 1st.—The Censor Woo Fung-tsaou petitions that all prefects, Magistrates, and other officials, who are all bound to discharge the duties of their several offices to the best of their abilities, may be retained for a more lengthened period at their several posts. This plan, the petitioner thinks, will ensure a more thorough knowledge, on the part of each official, of the requirements of the district under his jurisdiction, and will thus enable him to repress vice and uphold virtue.

Mar. 2nd.—An Edict. Ma Gan-poo, a member of the Imperial Council, petitions that the proper Board may be ordered to consult and express commiseration for the misfortunes of certain gentry who, together with one of the common people, have committed suicide under the following circumstances.

In the province of Yun-nan, the Keu-jin Twan Tang-yun, the Sew-tsaes Ma Kwang-tsaou and Yang Ying-kwei, together with an aged man named Soo Yu were all forced by the rebels to assume rank as officials. These persons committed suicide in succession, and thus profoundly displayed their adherence to rectitude. Ma Kwang-tsaou, although a Mahometan, yet would not join the rebels, and hence he is worthy of especial commendation. We command that the names of the other four persons who committed suicide be also given in to the Board in order that they may receive commiseration according so their respective merits. Moreover, we grant permission that their tablets be placed in the hall of Ancestors at their native place Ta-le-foo, and that a triumphal arch be erected to their memory, in order that all may be made acquainted with their fidelity and rectitude.

From the first disturbance of the aforesaid province by the rebels, to the present time, the gentry and common people, whether Mahometans or Chinese religionists, who have committed suicide, are all deserving of pity; and we command the Governor and the deputy Governor of the province to open an office for enquiry, and to petition on behalf of all such cases; but on no account to trust to vague reports. The rebel Too Wan-sew has for many years caused disturbance in the province, and both Mahometan and Chinese religionists resident there have suffered from the tyranny of the insurgents. Those who have thus fallen amongst the robbers could not escape being pressed into their service. We suppose that, their persons being thus in danger, they had no means of rescue from their perilous position and therefore they must not be ranked with those who willingly, and of their own accord, took part with the rebels. The head rebel having been already executed, and the bandits all exterminated, the rebels at other places, hearing of all this, will be overcome with fear. Wherever the soldiers have appeared, besides those executed in consequence of having all along sided with the rebels, there have been others found who, owing to the force of circumstances have been pressed into the service of the latter, and these We order the Board to deal leniently with, with a view to their renovation. We further command the Governor and Deputy Governor of the aforesaid province strictly to charge both Chinese religionists and Mahometans, that they must not on any account accuse any person falsely through enmity. Thus We desire to manifest, towards Our erring subjects, Our desire for their reformation. Respect this.

(2) I Ting Paou-ching the Deputy Governor of Shantung kneel and petition in regard to enquiry made, and the arrest trial, and condemnation of the rebel who murdered the Prince Sāng-tsing; and also, praying that the Civil and Military officials who have exerted themselves in this matter, may be rewarded according to their respective merits, in order to excite gratitude and stimulate to greater exertion.

After the province of Shan-tung was cleared of rebels in the seventh year of the present reign, some few who leaked out of the net availed themselves of a favourable opportunity to create disturbance, and I gave repeated orders to both the Civil and Military authorities of the place, without regarding landmarks, rigorously and secretly to reconnoitre and search for rebels, and, as opportunity offered, to arrest them and bring them to justice. The Tsaou-tae of Yen-chow-foo, Ts-chow-foo, Tsaou-chow-foo, and Tse-nan-foo, named Chang-kēng, has made enquiry and arrested the rebel Chang Ling-yun, the murderer of the Prince Sēng-kih-lin-sin, together with another rebel named Shang Hing-pan who leaked out of the net; both of whom were concealed

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on the boundary line between Ho-nan and Gan-hwuy. The Taou-tae having consulted me on the subject, I sent a Too-sze attached to the Leang-shan Cantonment, named Këa Tsung-këang, and others, to proceed with all dispatch to the place mentioned, and to lay some plan for arresting the bandits. The officer sent a spy from Lew-taze-tseih in Po-chow, who enticed Shang Hing-pan out of the village where he lived, and then the soldiers advancing in a body seized upon him. On examining this prisoner it was discovered that Chang Ling-yun, hearing that the authorities were on the look-out for him, escaped and lay in concealment at Wa-yang-heen, his native place. Tëa Tsung-këang then conveyed the prisoner to Yung-ching-yuen, which place was near at hand, and delivered him up to the authorities there to be imprisoned, while he himself hastened on to Wa-yang district, assembled together the soldiers and police runners there, and preserving a rigid silence as to their object, arrested Chang Ling-yun, and finally escorted both prisoners to Shan-tung. I then, in conjunction with the Criminal Judge, Le Yuen-hwa, interrogated both the prisoners. We found that Chang Ling yuen has consorted with the rebels for many years, and that he has caused disturbance in several provinces; moreover, that he committed the heinous crime of murdering the Prince. His wickedness is great and his villainy excessive. I then sent the Judge, Le Yun-hwa with the Major-General of the Foo-yun's troops, named Mŏ Tsuo-shëu to procure an Imperial warrant to put the rebel Chang Ling-yuen to death by cutting in pieces, and to pluck out his heart and offer it as a sacrifice in the Ancestral Hall of Sëng-kuh-lin-sin, in the capital city; thus displaying the justice of the laws of the Empire, and rejoicing the hearts of the people. Shang Hing-pan was immediately beheaded.

Këa Tsung-këang and others who gave orders that the aforesaid rebel should be silently arrested, and who, marching to the boundary of the province, succeeded in immediately seizing him, have thereby acquired a certain amount of merit, and I beseech your Majesty graciously to order the proper Board to reward them.—His Majesty grants the petition.

March 4th.—Ying-leen petitions with regard to an officer who should retire from office in consequence of the death of his father, and in reference to a petition praying the Emperor to allow him to remain some time longer at his post, as an efficient successor had not been found to supply his place. His Majesty had previously given permission to this officer to remain at his post, but the petitioner having since discovered that a like application was made, in a similar case, to the previous Emperor Hëen-fung and refused, now prays the Emperor to reverse His decision, and to insist upon the aforesaid official retiring from office during the period of mourning. His Majesty grants the petition.

Mar. 5th.—Yang Chang-sing presents a supplementary petition, in reference to a frontier guard arresting rebels without first assembling together the local authorities to take part in the arrest, by which course of conduct a disturbance was caused.

Now, according to the evidence of Tae Chang-tsäng an inhabitant of Hwang Gan-yuen, his nephew Tae Wei-show incurred the enmity of one Chin Seuou-tsang, by whom he was seized, bound, and carried off to the house of a literary graduate named Paou Kin-tsing. It appears moreover, that this man who carried off the plaintiff's nephew murdered two women. A Major General of no character, named Pwan Kaou-shing, was halting at Yang-koh-gaou in the district of Lŏ-tsing-yuen, and trusting to the partial statements of certain gentry and people, he without assembling the authorities of the district, seized Tae Wei show, and put him to death. The guiltless son of the local rebel Hëang Tä-san, who had long ago escaped from the net, was also arrested by this officer beyond the boundary of the province, and lives were lost on that occasion. Truly this was a most wicked and erroneous proceeding. The petitioner prays that all concerned in these offences may be punished according to their several degrees of guilt. His Majesty grants the petition.

Mar. 7th.—I, Shaou Häng-yu the Deputy Governor of Shen-se, kneel and petition with regard to instituting an enquiry into the murder of three members of one family, and bringing the guilty to justice.

I find that Ho Wan-chang an inhabitant of Kea-chow, for some reason or other killed Lew Wei-she and her two sons. The Chechow of the district has ascertained the facts of the case and written to me on the subject, and I myself have had the criminal brought before me for examination. Ho Wan-chang, it appears, is a native of Këa-chow and a fellow townsman of Lew Tang-jin, the husband of the murdered woman, and no enmity has hitherto existed between the murdered woman's husband and himself. In the 8th month of the 6th year of the present reign, Lew Tang-jin borrowed a Tow of rice from Ho Wan-chang, promis-

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ed to return it soon. After a while Lew Tan-jin was carried of by the rebels, and Ho Wan-chang on several occasions asked the woman Lew Wei-she to pay him back the rice; but all to no purpose. After this, Lew Wei-she wishing to go away on a visit to her parents, gave a box containing her head ornaments to Ho Wan-chang's mother to keep for her until her return home. Ho Wan-chang hearing of this, on his return to the house, and knowing that Lew Wei-she was a woman of violent disposition, advised his mother to return the box at once. His mother Ho Mo-she then asked Lew Wei-she to come over to her house to receive back the box, and to see that the lock was untouched. Lew Wei-she having taken away the box, afterwards accused Ho Wan-chang of having taken some of her head ornaments out of it, and she made frequent disturbances about the affair, the neighbours always advising her, and endeavouring to put an end to the quarrel. On the 23rd day. of the 7th month of the 7th year of the present reign, Ho Wan-chang again went to Lew Wei-she and asked her to return the borrowed rice, but she abused him and seizing him by his queue, gave him a beating. Upon this Ho Wan-chang seized a large knife which was lying near the door, and wounded Lew Wei-she with it, in the neck; upon which she fell down and rolled about on the ground, still abusing him, and declaring that she would never cease to carry on the quarrel with him. Ho Wan-chang upon this conceived an instantaneous hatred against her, and again attacking her with the knife, cut her throat. At this time her eldest son Lew Ying-tseen seized hold of Ho Wan-chang's clothes and began to call out for help; whereupon, Ho Wan-chang not being able to free himself immediately used the knife, and wounding Lew Yang-tseen in the neck flung him off upon the ground. The second son Lew Keaou-tse was sitting upon the stove-bed crying, and Ho Wan-chang again using the knife struck him with it and killed him.

The prisoner being brought before the provincial judge, and repeatedly examined as to his crimes, did not at all deny any of the above facts. Now, I find that according to law, whoever kills three guiltless persons in the same family shall be put to death by cutting into pieces; all his property shall be handed over to the relatives of the murdered persons; and his wife and family shall be banished to the distance of 2,000 le. Now, this Ho Wan-chang has killed three unfortunate members of one family, which is a most wicked crime, and he ought therefore to suffer the punishment ordered by the law; and It having judged him for his offence, now pray for a warrant for his execution, and that your Majesty will command the Criminal Judge, and the Major General of the Foo-yuen's troops, to have the Criminal bound, and led to the market place, and there put to death by cutting into pieces. The prisoner, I find on enquiry is poor, and does not possess any property whatever; so that the portion of the aforesaid law which relates to property, need not be taken into consideration. His wife was not an accomplice in his crime, so that it may perhaps be sufficient punishment to banish her to a shorter distance than that commanded by the law. His Majesty grants the petition.

Mar. 8th—An edict has been issued in reference to a petition lately presented to the Emperor by the Censor Yuen Fang-ching, complaining of the conduct of certain officials. The former Taou-tae of Le-ning-foo in the province of Kan-suh, named Shoo Che-han was accused of preventing an attack upon the rebels in consequence of having received a heavy bribe from them. Also, Seaou Taou-yuen, an officer in command of a Cantonment, was accused of being secretly in league with the rebels. His Majesty ordered Tso Tsung-tang to inquire into the matter and to report; and this officer states that the complaint made against Shoo Che-han, of having received a bribe from the rebels to become their accomplice, has no foundation in fact. This officer while at the quarters of the Show-pei did however extort presents from several officers. Also, the recent acting Che-hëen of Tsing-yuen named Kin-ling made him a present of some Taels in order to hush up a case in which the Che-hëen had given an erroneous judgment. There is no doubt whatever that the said Taou-tae did exact presents on his birthdays, but the amount which he thus received in presents it is impossible to ascertain. Since this official has thus been proved guilty of the meanness of receiving bribes, His Majesty commands that he be degraded from office, and return to his native place, never again to be employed in the public service. An official has been ordered to see that this Taou-tae is expelled at once from office and not suffered to remain at his post on any pretence whatever, as a warning to officers addicted to mean practices. As there is no evidence whatever against Seaou Taou-yuen, the accusation against him being proved to be untrue, no further proceedings are to be taken in his case.

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March 8th.—Yih-yung-tsae-yaou informs the Emperor of the arrest of the rebel leader Wang-sze-ta-taou and another. The entire band of these robbers consisted of more than 200 bandits, and they have already been pursued and scattered by the Mongol troops; the leading bandits, Wang-sze-ta-taou and another being made prisoners. The petitioner begs that, in accordance with the laws respecting robbers, murderers, incendiaries, and those who band together to the number of 100 and upwards, the Imperial warrant may be issued subsequent to the trial, and both Wang-sze-ta-taou and his companion may be beheaded in the public market place, and their heads placed on bamboo poles, to be exposed upon the highway as a warning to others. As the officer who arrested these rebels, cannot be asserted to be devoid of a certain degree of merit, the petitioner prays that he may be rewarded. His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) A petition was recently presented to the Emperor to the effect that a General of Chang-chow-chin, in the province of Fuh-këen was unfit to discharge the duties of his post. His Majesty, however, ordered Le Gö-nëen to inquire into the matter, and that official reports that the General's abilities are good; that he is young and vigorous; and that he his quite capable of commanding his troops. He is therefore ordered to remain at his post.

10th.—The Board of Rites petitions the Emperor to prohibit the killing of animals for food on the 15th day of the second moon (March 13th—in consequence of the want of rain). This Board also informs His Majesty that the 26th (March 24th) is one of the dread days of mourning for the dead.

(2) Tsung-tae, a member of the Imperial Household, and others are promoted to the fifth rank, and honorable mention is made of the Taou-tae Le K'heu-hăng and others for their services to the State.

(3) His Majesty commands that the property of two Che-hëeus who have appropriated money from the District treasury for their own use, shall be seized, in order to make up the deficiency, and to maintain the importance of upright conduct with regard to the expenditure of the public funds.

(4) I, the Censor Woo Hung-gan, kneel and petition, presenting my ideas, which resemble coarse grass, on six points which I consider worthy of your Majesty's attention on Your accession to the throne.

First. Your Majesty should regulate your conduct by the example of your Ancestors. The Emperor is the pattern which all the officers and the myriads of the people must follow in their conduct. If the Emperor's example be according to rectitude, then He is not under the necessity of issuing any commands; the model which He presents is sufficient to ensure obedience. If on the contrary His example is not according to rectitude; then, although He may issue orders for ever, yet no one will think of obeying them. Thus self-culture is the first and most important duty of an Emperor.

Secondly. An Emperor should employ wise counsellors to assist Him in the Government. In ancient times Yih warned the Emperor Yu, that in the employment of wise counsellors He should not harbour any distrust towards them in his mind. Confucius also told Duke Gae, that if he respected the wise, he would never be in doubt as to his own duty. A kingdom must be governed by the wise, and therefore your Majesty in taking upon yourself the government of this Empire, should, in the first place, gather around you those who have a reputation for wisdom.

Thirdly. Your Majesty should weigh well the capabilities of those officials whom You employ in the public service. If all who are so employed be well chosen, then, whatever may be tending to decay will again commence to flourish; but if not, then everything will fall to ruin. It is therefore highly important that this rule should be observed.

Fourthly. Your Majesty should love your people, and thus strengthen the very foundation of Your Government. For, I have heard it said that the people of a country resemble the animating principle in man; and hence, they should be loved by the Sovereign as a man loves his life.

Fifthly. Your Majesty must distinguish between true and false statements made in petitions, and draw your own conclusions accordingly.

Sixthly. Your Majesty must perform every duty thoroughly, in order to secure good results. Of all evils under Heaven, the worst is, to have a mere reputation without possessing the reality. Hence, whoever performs his duty scrupulously may be assured that good results will follow.

These six duties are all important, and I therefore implore your Majesty carefully to attend to each. I have drawn them up solely in obedience to your Majesty's command.

March 12th.—His Majesty goes to-morrow to worship in the temple of the god of literature.

14th.—An Edict has been issued with regard to a petition presented to the Em-

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peror by Too-kea-urh, on behalf of certain officers who have successfully guarded the North-west frontier against the attacks of the rebels. The petition was accompanied by a list of the names of those officers who distinguished themselves most. His Majesty grants the petition, and refers the matter to the proper Board.

Mar. 15th.—Tih-ying-toh-kih-twan petitions in reference to the capture of certain rebels who escaped arrest hitherto, and lay for some time in concealment.

On a former occasion a number of escaped rebels were arrested, and being brought to trial were condemned. The petitioner has already informed His Majesty of this fact, and the case is now on record. The band of rebels to which the present petition refers has been assembled together for years, and the bandits have been in the habit of suddenly appearing and disappearing in various places and causing disturbance. During the winter season orders were given to the proper officials, that vigorous measures should be taken for the arrest of these bandits, and that no mercy whatever should be shown towards them. Subsequent to this order information was received from the T'hung-che named Hoo-lan and from the Tso-ling named Füh-urh-kwö-chun that they sent an officer to arrest the rebels. Three rebels who were seized, confessed on examination that they belonged to the followers of a rebel chief named Wang Tëen-ying. While these three prisoners were going under escort to the Magistrate's office, one of them named Ma-chin was seized with severe illness and died, and the remaining two were then sent forward to be tried for their offence. Orders were then issued to the proper authority to investigate the matter minutely. It appears that the two prisoners and their deceased companion were always addicted to evil practices, and usually spent their time in gambling and chess-playing. In the 10th month of the 10th year of the present reign, they fell into the company of two of the rebel chiefs, and of their own accord joined the bandits. Each man was mounted and armed, and there were more than 60 men belonging to the band whose names were unknown to the prisoners. The rebels went about everywhere seeking for plunder, and rifled the house of one Chang Kwang-füh against whom they entertained a grudge. While on the latter expedition they fell in with an officer sent to arrest rebels, with soldiers and police runners under his command; whereupon the two rebel chiefs, Wang Tëen-ying and Lo Wan-yin, leading on their bands to the attack, killed the officer and five men under his command. They then set fire to the houses around, and flung the dead bodies into the flames, after which they retreated in a body to Tsing-shau-paou. The three prisoners, however, seizing upon some plunder, left the banditti at this time, and hid themselves in various localities.

In the 7th month of the past year these three bandits joined another company of rebels who have all been since executed, and with them, plundered all those against whom they had any grudge. But hearing at this time of the arrest of one of their companions, the three absconded and hid themselves; and after a time were themselves arrested. They were at once rigorously examined and made a full confession of their guilt. All the circumstances already detailed are strictly correct, and the wickedness of these rebels has been great in the extreme. The petitioner prays that the two surviving prisoners may be put to death and their heads exposed on the highway. His Majesty replies that the Board of Punishments is informed of the case.

March 15th. Ma-gan-poo presents a supplementary petition. From the time that the rebels first caused disturbance in Yunnan to the present date, the number of Literati and common people who have committed suicide in that province has been very great. As, for example, the Keu-jin Twan Tăng-yun, who, at his native place, lived in attendance upon his mother, and whose filial piety was manifest to all. The rebel Too Wan-sew endeavoured to entice him to accept office with the insurgents; but he pleaded his aged mother as his excuse for refusing to do so. His mother, however, subsequently died, and then this rebel again pressed him to join them; but he again refused on the ground that he must attend to his mother's obsequies. But, when the funeral rites were completed, he immediately strangled himself at the grave; thus in a dignified manner acting in accordance with propriety. Such filial piety and determination are worthy of imitation. There were also the privileged graduate Ma Kwang-tsaou, the Sew-tsae Yang Ying-kwei, and Soo Yu the elder of the people, and others who, because the rebels wanted to force them to take office amongst them, took poison one after the other, and terminated their lives. All these brilliantly displayed a lofty propriety. The petitioner having examined into all these particulars, finds that they

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are strictly correct, and cannot endure that such deeds should be forgotten. He considers it to be his duty to implore the Emperor graciously to command the proper Board to take this matter into consideration, and to bestow tokens of commiseration upon the deceased. Also, to permit the placing of their tablets in the ancestral hall, and the erection of a triumphal arch to their memory, at their native place, Ta-le-foo, in order to make known their fidelity and propriety. Besides those already mentioned, there were not a few other persons who committed suicide; but as the place where these events occurred is at a distance from the Capital, it is impossible to ascertain all the facts clearly. The petitioner therefore considers it to be his duty to pray the Emperor to order the Governor-General and the Deputy Governor of Yunnan to open an office for inquiry, similar to those established in other provinces, and to make extensive inquiries as to the facts, and report; in order that all the deserving may be commiserated, to induce others to follow their example; and that the tender compassion of His Majesty may be made manifest.

16th.—Foo-ho presents a supplementary petition. From the time that your Majesty's slave entered upon office to the present date, my expenditure has been overwhelming as a flood, and everything has been so dear as to require the expenditure of an enormous amount of money. I draw but 80 Taels a month * at present, which is not sufficient to meet my expenses. On examining the Records, I find that the Ts'au-tsan of Tá-urh-pa-hŏ-tae should receive yearly the sum of 1,500 Taels. Deducting from this the sum of 300 Taels, for the usual percentage taken from each officer's allowance, a yearly sum of 1,200 Taels remains. I your slave dare not dictate as to what my allowance should be, but I implore your Majesty graciously to consider whether this increased allowance may be granted or not, to enable me adequately to meet my expenses, and to avoid getting into difficulties. I leave the matter entirely with your Majesty, whether I may draw this increase of allowance or not: I simply considered it to be my duty to petition your Majesty on the subject.—His Majesty replies that the proper Board has been ordered to take the case into consideration.

17th.—Chen Mow-kĕen, President of the Board of War, and member of the Imperial Council, petitions the Emperor with regard to the periodical inspection of the army. This 12th year of the present reign, being the proper period for reviewing the troops of the four provinces Fŭh-kĕen, Chĕ-keang, Kwang-tung, and Kwang-se, the petitioner begs His Majesty to appoint officers for that purpose. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(2.) We, your Majesty's slaves Yu-kŏ, Tsae-tsan, and King-ling, kneel and petition, respectfully offering certain information, praying your Majesty to take the matter into consideration.

Your slave Yu-kŏ, during the early part of the first month of the present year was suddenly seized with influenza, while about to discharge his duties in obedience to Imperial orders received. He did not immediately venture to pray for leave of absence, nor did he desire in the least to relax his efforts in the discharge of his duties. At present, although he has called in a doctor to cure him, yet he does not improve under medical treatment. We find, on respectful examination, that in the 12th month of the 11th year of the present year, your Majesty granted the petition of the T'ae-chang-sye, and ordered your slave Yu-kŏ to superintend the sacrifices at the Heaou-ling tomb, on the 1st day of the second month. At the present time, the illness of your Majesty's slave Yu-kŏ has considerably increased, and he fears that he shall not be able to attend to his duties at the appointed time, and hence we respectfully pray Your Majesty graciously to grant him 20 days leave of absence. We humbly consider that the ceremonies performed at the Imperial tombs are most important, and now the season for performing them is near at hand; so that, if we delay to petition Your Majesty to appoint a substitute, there will not be time to arrange the matter properly. We therefore, after frequent consultations together, pray that Your Majesty's slave Tsae-tsan be sent at the appointed time to the Heaou-ling tombs, reverently to superintend the sacrifices there.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded, and that Yu-kŏ is granted 20 days leave of absence.

18th.—The Governor General Keaou Sung-nĕen petitions with reference to the repairing of the banks of the Yellow River, which have been injured by the ice during the severe frost of last winter. The accumulated ice outside the city of Shen-chow formed a complete bridge. His Excellency prays that the local authorities may be ordered to fill up those portions of the banks from which the soil

* *i.e.* "Anti-extortion allowance," as Mr. Meadows designates it.

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has been washed away, and to repair them thoroughly.

(2) Ting Paou-ching presents a supplementary petition. On the 19th day of the 12th month of the 11th year of the present reign, this Official presented a petition on behalf of the Che-hëen of Leih-ching who displayed zeal in pressing the payment of the grain tax. In that petition he wrongly stated the rank of the Che-hëen, and he now prays the Emperor to issue orders to the proper Board to consult and inflict punishment upon him for his mistake. His Majesty commands the Board to deal leniently with the offender.

19th.—An Edict has been issued by the Emperor, commanding that when His Majesty has set out on his journey (to the Tombs) on the 5th day of the 3rd month, the Prince Shun, Chen Maow-këen member of the Imperial Council, the presidents Maou Chang-he and Sung-lun, together with Ying-yuen the Commander-in-chief of Infantry, shall all remain at Peking to attend to State affairs. The first mentioned four officials are to attend in rotation at the palace by night; and the three who are not required on night duty are permitted to go off duty at 3 o'clock P.M. Ying-yuen shall be on duty at the palace during the day time, and is not required to attend there at night; he may therefore return from business about noon. Respect this.

March 19th.—Swan-lëen-kung-tang petitions on behalf of the prefect of E-chow, who has caused a large number of robbers to be arrested and brought to justice. On the 14th day of the 7th month of the 11th year of the present reign, more than 40 robbers on horseback plundered a pawnshop and afterwards set fire to it. On the 16th day fifty or sixty robbers penetrated like rats into a Cantonment to plunder, and afterwards, rushing into two pawnshops, plundered them of money and goods. In consequence of these depredations committed in the district under his jurisdiction, the aforesaid Prefect was deprived of office, and two months were allowed him for the arrest of the thieves. During the limit of time allowed, he has arrested a great number of these robbers and caused them to be executed; so that, although he acted carelessly at first, he afterwards showed diligence in pursuing the thieves, and the petitioner therefore implores the Emperor to reinstate him in office. His Majesty grants the petition.

20th.—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions the Emperor in reference to a careless Che-hëen. This officer not guarding his Yamun with sufficient care, a band of insurgents attacked and plundered it, and the petitioner prays that this official may, in consequence, be deprived of office. His Majesty grants the petition.

21st.—Chen Mow-këen, a member of the Imperial Council and President of the Board of War, petitions the Emperor in reference to a certain Secretary, who changed two characters in a petition, thereby altering the sense of a passage. His Majesty, some time ago, ordered the Board of Punishment to deal with the offender, but the latter has since absconded. The petitioner prays that he may be pursued and arrested, in order to assert the dignity of the law. The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

(2) Koo-kih-keih-tao petitions that a certain Magistrate, whose term of office has just transpired, may be permitted to remain for another period of three years at his post, in consequence of his thorough acquaintance with his duties, his diligence, and the multiplicity of business not yet completed. This official has also been the means, by his exertions, of bringing many of the rebels to trial, regardless of the great trouble required on his own part in order to do so. His Majesty grants the petition.

22.—Chan E-sze petitions His Majesty to the effect that on the 26th (March 24th) sacrifice should be offered in the Fung-sëen-teen temple, and praying the Emperor to depute a high official to perform the ceremonies for His Majesty on that occasion.

(2) Tao Chang-she petitions the Emperor to appoint a reader of prayers and a master of ceremonials at sacrifices, and His Majesty has appointed K'hing-shing and K'hing-fuh to these posts. The petitioner also prays His Majesty to appoint examiners of ceremonials at the Eastern and Western Mausolea, and the Emperor has commanded K'hing-shing and Ah-chang-ah to undertake the duties of that office.

(3) The Board which takes the oversight of all the branches of the Imperial family petitions the Emperor to appoint some official to take charge of the Eastern Mausoleum, and His Majesty has appointed Duke T'sëen to that office.

(4) Chang Shoo-shing presents a supplementary petition to the following effect. The Naval and Military forces for the protection of the province of Këang-soo are disposed over Chun-gan-foo, Yang-chow-foo, and Se-chow-foo in the northern division of the province, and over Soo-chow-foo and Chang-chow-foo in the Southern division, in all more than 30 Cantonments, which were formerly under the command

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of Tsêng Kwŏh-fan (藩國曾) and were appointed by that officer to their several stations to guard the districts and to preserve them from disturbances. These forces are dispersed over a wide extent of country, and it is greatly to be feared that they may become careless in the performance of their duties, and may raise disturbances, if they are not constantly inspected. Hence the petitioner thinks it necessary that an officer of high rank should be appointed in order to guard against this danger, and to call them out for drill, in order to avoid indulgence in idleness. The petitioner finds on enquiry that the expectant Taou-tae, named Le Fung-chang, who holds the official rank of Criminal Judge, and who was formerly in the Cantonment of Tsêng Kwoh-fan (藩國曾) and Le Hung-chang (章鴻李) is well fitted for this office, as he is possessed of great firmness and fidelity, and well understands all military and naval tactics, as well as the dispositions of the men stationed at the aforesaid Cantonments. The petitioner therefore prays that this official be sent to inspect the entire force. His Majesty grants the petition.

23rd.—The Emperor issues the following Edict. Le Han-chang petitions in reference to an officer commanding a Cantonment, who has been deposed and brought to trial for taking upon himself to give orders to certain troops who raised a disturbance about their rations; and the petitioner asks to be informed respecting Our wishes in this case. The deposed officer Tae Chang-ling is a native of Hoonan, and was attached to the Cantonment of General Sëaou Tih-yang, whom he assisted in the performance of the duties of the camp. After Seaou Tih-yang was killed in an engagement, the authorities of Shense issued a proclamation forbidding the Volunteers to go to the General's house to demand the rations due to them. This deposed officer, however, conceived a daring plan, and collecting a number of the Volunteers together, went to the house of the deceased and fiercely demanded their rations. Moreover, he, on his own responsibility, commanded the Volunteers to destroy the Granary, from which they carried off a quantity of grain. This man truly exhibited the disposition of a vagabond. We command that he be punished with the utmost rigour, by being banished to Hih-lung-këang without hope of reprieve. We further command that the entire case be settled according to the terms of the petition. The affair has been laid before the proper Board. Respect this.

(2) Chang Shoo-shing presents a supplementary petition. Le Chaou-ping, General of Këang-nan, informs the petitioner that his yamun was formerly supplied with the Imperial Warrant, Flags, and Shields; but, since the 11th year of the Emperor Hëen-fung's reign, all their official insignia have been lost. The province is now, however, in the enjoyment of peace, and the yamun has been gradually rebuilt; the General, therefore, considers it his duty to apply for another grant of these articles, and begs the petitioner to pray the Emperor to comply with his request. The petitioner now implores the Emperor to take the matter into consideration, and to order the proper Board to make the grant according to law, that confidence may be established. His Majesty replies that the case has been referred to the proper Board.

(3) Tsao-tsan and King-ling inform the Emperor that His Excellency Duke Foo-kwŏh of the frontier guard, has made a vacancy by illness. The petitioners received the news of the Duke's death from His Excellency's door-keeper. They pray the Emperor to appoint an officer to fill the vacant post.

March 23rd.—I Wang Yung-keih, an officer of the Tale-sze, an official of the second rank, and Inspector of the Left Wing school for the members of the Imperial Family, kneel and petition in reference to both schools, that certain matters which require adjustment may be speedily attended to, and a return to the ancient laws for the regulation of the schools be effected, in order that talent may be fostered, and a good foundation laid for the future.

In my humble opinion, schools are established for the members of the Imperial Family in order to assist talent for the benefit of the Kingdom, and also to illustrate the close affection which should subsist between relations. The school is divided into two wings, Right, and Left; and four officials are appointed as teachers in each. Two overseers with eight assistants are also appointed to each school; and a Prince of the Imperial Family is appointed to take the general superintendence of both schools. Moreover, Your Majesty has appointed Members of the Hanlin, officers of the first and second rank, to manage and examine the schools with undivided attention. These regulations are most complete, and are most profound in conception: the intention always being that all the children of the Imperial Houshold, along the entire line of Emperors, being born and brought up in rich

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and noble families, should be sent to these schools to study; to enlarge their powers of perception in order to prevent them from sinking down in social rank, and to rectify their dispositions so as to drive out all pride and self-conceit. Thus they will become humble in their ideas, exalted in talent, will reject all the hollow customs of the world, and so for ever preserve their high position.

The teachers in these schools are engaged for a term of three years. At the expiration of this term, an inquiry is instituted as to whether each has perfectly discharged his duties or not. If he has, then His Excellency the Superintendant gives a certificate to that effect, and the teacher is sent to the office for the oversight of the branches of the Imperial Family, in order that he may be presented to the Emperor, and His Majesty besought to confer some appointment upon him as a reward for his diligent exertions in teaching. In all generations there have been illustrious members of the Imperial Household; and which of all these distinguished personages has not been taught and cherished by some Holy Emperor? At present, however, these schools have almost become useless.

From the ninth year of the present reign, I have been commissioned by your Majesty to superintend the Imperial school of the Left Wing, and my duty is, strictly to enjoin all the officials employed, to attend diligently to the duties of the school. On entering this school for the first time, I found several officials engaged in teaching, and the number of scholars present was more than twenty. After this I frequently visited the school, and found that the pupils became daily more lazy and inattentive, and sometimes the school resembled a wilderness, there not being a single pupil in it; and, on inquiry of the teachers about the matter, they stated that they now scarcely ever see the face of a pupil. When a subject is given out for a theme, very few write anything about it, and, on asking the reason of this, the teachers replied that the pupils pleaded poverty as an excuse for refusing to apply themselves to study, and alleged that as they had not any rice to eat it was very difficult to exert diligence in learning. They made these excuses because, heretofore, according to established law, each pupil was in the habit of receiving three *Tow* of rice every month, and also, at certain intervals, paper, pencils and ink were given to them. In summer they received a grant of rice, and in winter a grant of charcoal. But, since the funds for these perquisites have been decreased, the monthly allowance of rice, together with the other allowances, have all been curtailed. The former allowance of three *Tow* of rice has been reduced to one-fifth of that quantity, and the less we say as to the other allowances, the better. The present grant of rice is merely sufficient for two days' consumption; to come regularly to school in order to study and to write themes, is perfectly impossible. Thus these schools are merely established in name, but in point of fact they have no real existence. Those families who are wealthy employ teachers for their children at home; but those who can do this average only one in ten, while those who have not the means of doing so, average nine in ten. Hence I fear that the greater portion of the children merely pass their time in play, and become vulgar, neither understanding the labour of sowing and reaping, nor the advantage of composition and study, and only obstructing their talents by idleness; all which is most pitiable. The teachers, too, in each of these schools, who depend upon teaching in order to gain a reputation for themselves, pass months and years unemployed; and both they and the superintendant can only patiently and silently endure, feeling their hearts weighed down, as it were by sickness.

When I presided over the district of Peking, I found, at Examination term, several pupils who are members of the Imperial Household, at the Kin-tae-shoo-yuen school, who presented themselves for examination. I deemed it necessary to make some present to these; so, selecting those whose themes were of the first and second order of merit, I presented them with a small sum of money to buy oil for their study lamps, thus showing my love for their talents and my pity for their poverty. I am humbly aware that our Emperor entertains the firmest affection towards His relatives, and bestows favours upon them with the utmost benevolence; in fact, that there does not exist any benefit which He is unwilling to confer upon them. Yet, the pupils who enter the aforesaid schools, do not receive their monthly allowance of rice according to established custom, but remain in ignorance of Your Majesty's benevolence and partiality towards them, and of your wish to induce them to study. Moreover, the grant of rice which the scholars in both schools should receive, only amounts to 500 or 600 stone, yearly. When any place in Your Majesty's dominions suffers from either inundation or drought, and a petition is presented to that effect, Your Ma-

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jesty does not hesitate to remit the grain-tax due from that place, even to the amount of one or two hundred thousand stone weight. The tax is remitted without the least delay. Also, in Peking, at the Poo-tse-tang and the Kung-tih-ling, together with the Wang-shoo-yuen at T'ung-chow, every year during the winter season rice is distributed from the Granaries by Your Majesty's gracious benevolence, to the amount of from five or six hundred stone weight down to three or four hundred. If such liberal grants are made to the suffering people, ought not the scholars in the schools mentioned, who depend upon Your Majesty for nurture, to receive also some little bounty? I pray, if it be in accordance with Your Majesty's wishes, that orders may be issued to the Council for the oversight of the members of the Imperial Family, to consult together in reference to the strict observance of the laws regarding these schools; the monthly distribution of rice, according to ancient custom; in what manner those pupils who are diligent may be encouraged to perseverance and the idle punished; how the masters may give instruction with undivided attention; and whether, if when their term of engagement has expired, they are found to have neglected their duties, they ought not to be still retained at their posts for a longer term, in order to ascertain whether they improve in this respect or not. Those masters who are diligent should be rewarded, and the careless cautioned, so that all may diligently attend to their duties, and the pupils, like the wise men of old, may become eminent for their virtues. Thus the pupils of these schools, understanding the classical writings and regulating their conduct aright, may become, if they attain the highest point, the bulwarks of the Empire, and if not, at least not miss the rank of gemmed sceptres in the Kingdom. In this way the gracious benevolence of our Holy Emperor will shine forth conspicuously, His sense of duty be praised by all, and He Himself will be more and more glorified throughout all ages.

Whether my stupid and idiotic opinions are right or wrong, and whether they ought to be adopted or not, it is nevertheless my duty to make them known, and humbly to beg your Majesty to deign to glance at my communication, and to favour me with instructions.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

March 24th.—Yu-sze, in consequence of a communication received from Hoo-too-kih too, a native of Tung-koo-urh, petitions the Emperor to give names to three temples which are at present without inscription Boards. When the Boards are put up, both gods and men will thank His Majesty for his bounty.

25th.—The Board of Revenue petitions the Emperor with regard to their seal having been stolen from the public office. The box in which it was kept was found broken open, and the slips of paper which bound it were torn off. His Majesty orders that the officers who had charge of the seal be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with.

26th.—Lew Ting-sze appeals to the Censor Ying-yuen against a certain Che-hëen who imprisoned the father of the plaintiff upon a false accusation. The father died during his imprisonment, and the body was found lying stripped, with the leg broken.

29th.—Felt caps and cloth collars are now changed; and the white fur cuffs of long and short cotton coats are laid aside.

(2) Lew Chang-yew, the Deputy Governor-General of Kwang-se, reports the death of Sëay-lun, Prefect of Hwae-gan-foo, and prays His Majesty to confer the vacant post on Shaou-tih, the present acting prefect, who has gained the hearts of the people.

(3) The Governor-General of Sze-chuen petitions that, as all the roads are now passable, the country being free from rebels, the examinations for the second Degree 舉人 may be held this year for the various provinces. His Majesty refers the matter to the Board of Rites and Ceremonies.

30th.—The Board of Rites and Ceremonies petition the Emperor to appoint a Duke of the Imperial Family to preside over sacrificial offerings. His Majesty has appointed Prince Juy to that office.—This Board also petitions that the cool summer caps may now be worn. His Majesty orders this change to commence from the 20th day of the month (April 16th).

(2) Le Han-chang 李瀚章 petitions to the effect that Lieutenant-Colonel Tae Chang-ling has been tried for causing disturbance in his Cantonment (see Gazette for March 23rd), and prays that, according to law, he may be banished to the distance of 4,000 le, and be sent to a new colony to render his punishment more severe; also, that he be required to rebuild the Granary which was pulled down during the riot, and to make good the stolen grain. His Majesty replies that he will take time to consider the matter.

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(3) The same official announces the death of the father of a General of Division at Chin-kan-chin, in consequence of which the General ought to resign his post, and prays the Emperor to confer the appointment upon General Wang Yung-chang. His Majesty delays His decision for the present.

(4) The same official presents a supplementary petition to the effect that His Majesty would be pleased to summon Chang Këen-ke, who has charge of the Revenue of the province of Hoo-pih, to the Imperial presence, as his term of office, three years, has now expired; and that some other official may be sent to supply his place for the present. His Majesty consents.

31st.—To-morrow, about 6 o'clock A.M., His Majesty goes to the temple of the Eastern Mountain to offer sacrifice,* and to partake of the flesh of the victims offered.†

(2) Ying-hau, the Deputy Governor of Gan-hwuy, petitions in reference to the trial of Lin Yung-kwang, the District Magistrate of Mung-ching-hëen, for pertinaciously demanding unpaid taxes. Moreover it is reported that he gave orders to his subordinates to make the taxes a pretext for demanding money. Believing these charges to have foundation, the former Deputy Governor petitioned the Emperor to degrade this Magistrate from office. The present petitioner has minutely examined into the case, and finds that when this official was first appointed, taxes were due in all parts of the province of Gan-hwuy. The Rebels had burnt the Records of the Mung-ching-hëen district, so that the taxes had not been collected for a long time, and this District Magistrate being made aware of the fact, issued a proclamation calling upon the shopkeepers to pay up all arrears, and appointed his Secretary and Doorkeeper to attend to the matter. Certain of the shopkeepers refusing to pay these taxes, the District Magistrate wrote orders demanding payment, which he sent to them; but they imagined that the Magistrate was endeavouring to cheat them, and so much discussion arose. According to the evidence given before the Prefect of Ying-chow-foo, it is perfectly true that accounts were not clear, in consequence of the Records of the district having been burnt by the Rebels. All the money which the Che-hëen succeeded in collecting, he duly handed over to the Revenue Officer of the province without diminution; therefore, as he has already been deprived of office for acting on his own responsibility, no further punishment is necessary. His Secretary not having given the magistrate sufficiently clear information with regard to the accounts, ought, according to law, to receive 80 blows from the larger bamboo and be dismissed from his situation. The shopkeepers have already paid up their taxes, and their former doubts were reasonable, so, these may be exempted from punishment. The doorkeeper has absconded, and he must therefore be sought for and brought to trial. His Majesty orders the Board of Punishments to report on the case.

April 1st and 2nd.—His Majesty has issued an Edict remitting three-tenths of the taxes due this year from five districts through which he passed on his journey to the Eastern Mausoles, in consequence of the apparent poverty of those districts.

(2) Wän-kwei announces that on the 10th day of the second month of the present year he arrived at Hwae-gan and took over the seals of office, in obedience to His Majesty's orders.

Le Hŏ-nëen, an officer of the first rank, Governor General of the provinces of Fuh-këen and Chë-këang, and Acting General for the defence of Fuh-chow-foo, together with Wang K'hae-tae, the Deputy Governor of Fuh-këen province, kneel and petition in reference to the accumulation of law cases at T'ae-wan (Formosa), in order that a period of time may be speedily assigned, within the limits of which all cases must be completed, and praying that certain laws may be altered, with a view to the clear understanding of prison discipline. The petitioners respectfully present this petition praying that our Holy Emperor may deign to glance at it.

The territory of T'ae-wan is extensive, and the population are violent in action, and fierce in temperament; hence, litigations and imprisonments are numberless. According to established law, all ordinary vagabond culprits and expelled soldiers, together with those who have committed capital crimes, must be brought before the Taoutae of T'ae-wan for trial; and this official, having examined fully into the matter, must draw up a report of each case, to be forwarded to the Censorate at Peking for final adjustment. And, those criminals who are condemned to be beheaded or strangled, together with soldiers expelled for murder and all vagabond culprits, must be sent up to Peking to be re-examined, within the limit of time specified for each case. Lately,

* One of the principal Mountains of China, sacrificed to by the Emperors from the earliest ages. See Shoo-King, Canon of Shun. This Eastern Mountain is the Olympus of China, and is worshipped throughout the Empire as the Ancestor of all mountains.

† The Emperor offers an Ox a Sheep and a Pig, &c., on these occasions.

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in consequence of the inability, through want of time, of the Che-hëen and his subordinates to attend fully to matters relating to the military, and also to their additional duty of settling the numerous matters arising between foreign and native merchants, it has been impossible to avoid neglecting some cases while attending to others. Moreover, in consequence of the violence of the litigants, it is by no means easy always to come to a satisfactory solution of a case; so that these criminal cases have accumulated beyond all control. In addition to all this, in consequence of T'ae-wan being widely separated from the mainland by water, the transmission of prisoners involves considerable expense. From these causes, all those officials who have hitherto held office in T'ae-wan have been behind hand in their work, and the more cases have accumulated the more hopeless has their final adjustment become. The execution of those guilty of heinous crimes has in many cases been long deferred; and those guilty of lesser crimes have frequently wasted away miserably in prison. If a limit be not assigned for the proper adjustment of such cases, how can their accumulation be avoided, or the value of human life be maintained?

His Majesty grants the prayer of the petitioners, that a limited period be allowed for each kind of criminal case, within which it must be fully completed.

April 4th.—The Emperor issues an Edict, with the consent of the Two Empresses, that the chair bearers and attendants of the Imperial party shall each receive a present of one tael daily from the Treasurer.

(2) Chang Shoo-shing, acting Governor-General of the Two Këang, Salt Commissioner for the north and south of the Hwae River, and Deputy-Governor of the province of Keang-soo, petitions the Emperor to grant permission to the Salt Merchants of Yang-chow to erect a temple to Tsäng Kwöh-fan 曾國藩, whose talents are well known both to Foreigners and Chinese, in which that deceased official may be sacrificed to in the Spring and Autumn of each year. His Majesty grants the petition.

(3) Chang Shoo-shing petitions the Emperor to permit the Gazetted general-in-chief Woo Chang-king to resume his official duties, as the three years of mourning for his mother have expired. His Majesty grants the petition.

April 6th.—The Emperor has issued an Edict as follows: His Excellency of the Imperial Presence, Prince Shun 醇親王 petitions with regard to a literary gentleman who, when the Imperial cortége was passing through his native place, knelt and presented his card, bearing his name and official rank; and the petitioner prays us to examine into the offence and punish it. Now this gentleman desired to look at Us in a friendly manner, so he knelt down by the road side and gazed upon Us, which was perfectly allowable. To present his card, however, was an unlawful act. The offender may be forgiven for this time; but if any country gentleman shall hereafter attempt to commit the same offence, he must be prohibited from doing so, in order that the law may be obeyed. Respect this.

(2) His Excellency Earl Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of the province of Chihli and member of the Imperial Council, kneels and petitions in reference to the deceased Taou-tae of Soo-chow, Sung-këang and T'ae-ts'ang, named Woo Heu 吳煦. This official arrived at his post during the winter of the eighth year of the Emperor Hëen-fung 咸豐 (1857), and entered upon his duties with diligence; showing compassion towards the people, all of whom experienced his kindness on numberless occasions. In the 4th month of the 10th year of the same reign, Soochow, Sung-këang and T'ae-ts'ang were lost, and the rebels advanced from the south-west, in vast numbers, to attack Shanghai. Fo-këen and Cantonese vagabonds, at the East and North gates, seized this opportunity to plunder and commit incendiarism. The Taou-tae, who was residing in the city at the time, exhorted the soldiers and volunteers to diligence in the discharge of their duties, and devised many expedients for the defence of the city, so that after the lapse of seven days and seven nights the rebels began to retire. During the winter of the eleventh year of the same reign, the capital city of Chë-këang province was also lost. The rebels, advancing from Cha-poo, destroyed in succession Fung-heen, Kin-shan, Ch'uen-sha, and Nan-hwuy, so that the Hwang-poo 一浦 (i.e. 黃浦) alone lay between them and Shanghai on the eastern side, while on the south-west, the rebels were within ten miles of that city. On their approach, the troops placed outside for the defence of the city ran away in disorder without firing a shot, and the affrighted merchants and people fled in crowds, in order to avoid the approaching calamity. False reports were propagated on all sides, and during each

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night several alarms were given. The Foreigners 西國人 outside the North gate however, had troops to protect themselves, which were still available for purposes of defence. The Taou-tae, considering his own troops weak, and the enemy strong; and that if his own forces were not reliable, he certainly could not use those of the Foreigners; assembled the gentry together for consultation, and to apply they resolved in a body to Tsăng Kwŏh-fan 曾國藩 for reinforcements. It was stated by some that, as the forces of the enemy were numerous, and the expense of transmitting the reinforcements would be very great, this plan must be abandoned. The Taou-tae, however, remarked that since matters had come to such a pass there was no time to consider any other plan. In the spring of the first year of the present reign, having made a calculation as to the expense, he hired foreign steamers and forwarded a despatch from the literary gentry to Gan-hwuy requesting that reinforcements might be sent down; and from the moment the sound of the approaching troops was heard, the minds of the people were set at rest. Finally, in consequence of the Taou-tae thus making a stand, by himself, in the midst of the enemy, and constantly placing himself in danger, and also killing a multitude of the rebels, the entire district, East and West, was rescued from calamity.

In consequence of the hardships which the Taou-tae underwent at this time, and his neglect of either eating or sleeping, his hair became white, although he was only 50 years of age, and he eventually died from over exertion. The petitioner prays the Emperor to grant the request of the literary gentry, and to permit them to erect a temple at Shanghai to the honour of the Taou-tae.—His Majesty grants the petition.

April 7th.—Chang-shun (長順) petitions the Emperor with regard to the troops continually arriving at Woo-ching. It is absolutely necessary to give these soldiers presents of Tea and Tobacco exclusive of their pay, but there are no funds available for the purpose. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to set apart 2,000 Taels from the military treasury to meet this necessary expenditure. The Emperor acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

April 8th.—The Emperor issues an Edict to the effect that to-day a person named Chang Kĕen having visited the Imperial residence at which His Majesty was making a temporary stay, the intruder is to be handed over to the Board of Punishments, in order that his conduct may be inquired into.

(2) The Emperor arrived at the palace to-day about 4 o'clock p.m.—Muh-lung-ah (穆隆阿) returns thanks to the Emperor for gifts received from His Majesty, to offer in sacrifice at his ancestral tombs.*

*Note.**—When the Prince sent Confucius a present of undressed meat, he used to cook it and offer it in sacrifice to his ancestors. *Lun-yu, Ch. XIII.*

April 9th.—An Imperial Edict has been issued to the following effect. The Office of Supplies petitions Us to institute an inquiry as to the cause of dilatoriness in the official appointed to provide Camels for the Imperial party. It appears that on the 11th day of the present month, the Camels which should have been in attendance to carry the luggage of the two Empresses and their suite, did not arrive in proper time. On the 10th they were also late in arriving. Such conduct is most unseemly. We order that both Hăng-shang and Shoo-yun, the two officials appointed to attend to the luggage, be handed over to the authorities for regulating the affairs of the palace, to be dealt with. Moreover, We command the Governor of Peking to look into the accounts of the Office of Supplies, and to see whether or not the number of the Camels is rightly stated, or whether any overcharge has been made for them; and if there is anything wrong, let the delinquents be punished according to law. Consultation should be held, as to how a change may be henceforth effected, and mules employed to convey the luggage, in order to avoid loss of time; and We therefore further command the Office of Supplies and the Governor of Peking carefully to examine into the established custom in this respect and to report. Respect this.

(2) Another Edict states as follows; Ming-shen (明善) petitions that the person who has charge of the Imperial Carts may be dismissed from office, and that others implicated may be punished according to their respective deserts. The mules provided for the carts of the two Empresses on the present journey, were weak and half-starved, and perfectly useless in wet weather; and the drivers could not urge them on quickly. All this is decidedly wrong. We command that Hae-ling, the Superintendant of the Imperial stables, with his subordinate, Paou-tsăang, be both handed over to the palace authorities for severe punishment. The petitioner, who

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has the general oversight of this department, has shown himself unable to correct any error arising in the management of these carts; so that those preceding the bearers of the Tiger-tailed spears were at last thrown into a state of confusion, crossing each other backwards and forwards in a most undignified manner. Truly a most lax and careless affair! We therefore order that the petitioner himself be handed over to the proper Board to be dealt with. We further command that their Excellencies Tsae-sän and Tsae-heun, Commanders of the Guards, who have shown their inability to command, be also handed over to the proper Board for punishment. Let the other matters be dealt with according to the prayer of the petition. Respect this.

(3) Wang Shoo-shway (王書瑞) the keeper of the seal of the Board of Revenue, petitions that the regulations in reference to the purchase of raw silk in the province of Chekiang may be revised, in order to avoid loss to the merchants.

This year the reception of taxes for the public service, from that province, depends chiefly on the amount contributed by merchants, and of these the silk merchants contribute the largest share. Formerly these merchants have not contributed less every year than 1,000,000 cash, and they gave that amount with promptitude, and without any pressure being exerted upon them, inasmuch as their money was not squandered or heaped up through covetousness, or stolen for private use by the tax-gatherers. During the past year or so, however, losses have been sustained in the silk trade at Këa-hing-foo and Hoo-chow-foo. Every year, during the Autumn, the officials deputed for the purpose open an office to inspect and receive the silk for sale. During each month from Winter to Spring, the covetousness of these officials as to fees, and the extortions of the taxgathers, have lately been beyond all bounds; so that, year after year, when delivering the silk, the merchants have been forced to give in 8 or 9 ounces extra in every catty, at a loss to themselves of more than 3000 or 4000 cash. Hence these officials consider such an appointment to be a highly profitable one, and the higher officers regard such a post as a remedy for their pecuniary distress. The silk merchants however lose their time, and their property is wasted away, being subjected to endless extortion. Such conduct on the part of these officials neither exhibits the benevolence of our Holy Emperor, nor is it in accordance with that respect which is due to the rules of government.

The petitioner prays the Emperor to do away with these officials in future, and to employ the Hang-chow manufacturers to purchase the raw silk at market price. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

10th.—Hae-Seu (海緒) presents a supplementary petition with regard to the tax on Foreign Medicine (i.e. opium). It is on record that each former Superintendant of Customs, at the expiration of his term of office, himself conveyed this tax to Peking, and the petitioner humbly informs His Majesty that during his term of office the Hwae-ngan and Süh-ts'ëen Customs barriers have taken in all, as taxes on Foreign Medicine, 6,666 taels 6 mace and 8 candareens, which he has now brought to Peking and handed over to the Board of Revenue. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

April 11th.—The Board of Works petitions the Emperor that the bamboo blinds in all the Palaces may now be repaired.

(2) An Edict. The Board which controuls the affairs of the palace petition in reference to the conduct of two officials who have been guilty of apathy in an important matter. The crockery used at table, at the various Imperial stages, has hitherto been always provided by the District Magistrates along the route, and persons are appointed by the Palace Board to deliver these utensils to the Chief of the Eunuchs, in order that each may be put by in its proper place. During the late journey (to the Tombs), at the Yen-këaou and T'aou-hwa-sho stages, some of the Eunuchs caused disturbance by snatching these utensils one from another in striving to be first. A most hateful proceeding! We have therefore inflicted a severe punishment upon Ma Tsin-ho, the Chief of the Eunuchs, and the other delinquents, and have banished them to Hih-lung-këang. The officials appointed to superintend this department, Ying-kih and Füh-min, being unable to keep these Eunuchs in order, the latter caused the disturbance aforesaid; these two officials thus showing their utter incapacity for their positions. We command that they be deprived of their appointments *in perpetuum*, as a warning to others. Hereafter, the Palace Board must be careful only to appoint officers of intelligence and ability to this post, who will diligently attend to their duties. And if, hereafter, such improper conduct be repeated, the superintendants of the Eunuchs must report the matter to His Excellency

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the Principal Officer-in-waiting, who will then report to us with a view to final adjustment. We further command that the superintendants of the carts, who were dilatory in the performance of their duties, be also deprived of their appointments. Respect this.

12th.—An Edict has been issued as follows. Kwŏh-sew (國秀) the Censor of the City, and others, petition that the rice sheds at the five points within the City may be kept open for a longer period than usual, as the time of harvest has not yet arrived, and the poor find it difficult to obtain a livelihood at present. We command that the fifteen sheds of the City be kept open for the distribution of rice for two months longer, according to the prayer of the petition. Respect this.

13th.—An Edict is issued as follows. Paou Yuen-shin (鮑源深) petitions to the following effect. Some time ago, while Le K'hing-ngaou (李慶翱) the Treasurer of Shan-se, was discharging the duties of his office at Poo-chow-foo, one of his parents died; but, the defence of that place being important, he could not return to his native place to perform the funeral obsequies. He certainly ought to be permitted to go into mournig, and we therefore now give him 100 days leave of absence to return to his native place to put on mourning. It is not necessary that he should resign his post. When the term of mourning has expired, he may come to Peking and present himself at Court. Respect this.

14th.—The Members of the Imperial Council Chamber have presented their congratulations to the Emperor on his birthday. The Board of Rites and Ceremonies have also wished His Majesty the 10,000 years of happiness.

(2) His Excellency Yih-heuen (奕譞) a Minister of the Imperial Presence, petitions for His Majesty's decision in the following case. As the Emperor was proceeding through the Haou-mun gate, an Expectant Taou-tae named She-p'ŏ praying for leave of absence to return to his native place; Loo-fang the assistant of a Prefect asking leave of absence in consequence of sickness; and Sen She-fang, a Public Instructor, all knelt down by the side of the Imperial road, and presented their official cards to His Majesty. This was a decided breach of the law; and the petitioner therefore deems it his duty to pray the Emperor to issue orders to Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) the Governor General of Chih-le to investigate the matter, and to present the official cards of these three officers in due form.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

April 15th.—The Sacrificial Board petition His Majesty to appoint officials to sacrifice to the Wind, the Cloud, the Rain, and the Thunder. His Majesty has appointed three officers for that purpose. This Board has also petitioned the Emperor to appoint officials to offer sacrifices in the temples of the City Defender, both within and without the City, and His Majesty has deputed two officers to do so.

April 16th.—His Majesty has issued an Edict as follows: When respectfully worshipping at the Eastern Mausoleum, and also at the Ting Mausoleum, We noticed a felicitous piece of ground, to the east of the latter, which is luxuriant and beautiful in aspect, and is surrounded by hills and water. We have prayed the two Empresses to go themselves and inspect this spot in person, and their Majesties have graciously replied as follows, "P'oo-p'sëang-yŭh and P'oo-t'o-yŭh are most decidedly places of felicity *in æternum*. Respect this." We, looking up and realizing the tender concern of their Majesties on Our behalf, deem it Our duty to select a propitious day on which to commence building tombs on these spots. We command Prince Chun 惇親王; Ts'euen-k'hing, Member of the Imperial Council Chamber; Ch'un-yew the President of the Palace Board; and Yung-lŭh Member of the Board of Works, to attend to the Mausoleum at P'oo-ts'ëang-yŭh; and Prince Shun 醇親王; Ying-yuen President of the Board of Censors; His Excellency K'hwei-ling, Member of the Imperial Council Chamber and of the Board for Official Appointments; and Ming-shen, Member of the Imperial Council Chamber and of the Board of Works, to attend to the P'oo-t'o-yuh Mausoleum. Respect this.

(2) Ts'in Yŭh-ying 岑毓英 presents a supplementary petition. When the obstructive Rebels occupied Ta-le-foo 大理府 (in Yun-nan), they seized the Yamun of the General-in-chief, and converted it into a pretended Imperial Palace, and wildly put yellow tiles upon it, usurping the Princely prerogative. They also built an inner city which they falsely designated The Forbidden Precincts. All the temples, together with the Yamuns of the Taou-tae and Prefect, they completely levelled with the ground; and of

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all the official residences, and houses of the inhabitants, there was not one which was not completely altered in appearance, either to make them residences for the pseudo-officers, or places for the banditti to live in; so that for the space of 18 years, the population could not return to their occupations. Last year the Imperial troops recovered the place by planting earth thunder (digging mines), so that breaches were made in the walls in several places. It was necessary to calculate the expense, and to rebuild the walls; and I have pulled down the pretended Imperial city and repaired them with the materials. I have also entirely destroyed the pseudo-magistrates' houses which, contrary to law, were covered with yellow-tiles; and I have restored the General-in-Chief's Yamun, together with those of the Taou-tae and Prefect, and also the Temples and Examination Halls, to their former condition. The inhabitants who had fled from the district, I have also invited back to their native places, to pursue their various avocations. I have consoled them under their troubles, and wished them all lasting happiness. The Emperor acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

17th.—The Members of the Imperial Council Chamber have presented His Majesty with a fruit dish in compartments.

18th.—To-morrow, after business, about 6 o'clock a.m., the Emperor will pass through the Hwa-yuen and Shin-woo gates to the Ta-kaou-tëen temple to offer sacrifice. Afterwards, His Majesty will pass through the Yung-suy-tsëang-mun gate, and entering the King-shan-se-mun gate will proceed to the Show-hwang temple to worship. His Majesty will then pass through the Peh-shang gate from the Se-shan road, and entering the Shin-woo gate, will return to the Palace to breakfast. His Majesty will then hold an audience, and at 7 o'clock will ascend to the K'ëen-tsing Palace, to receive congratulations. At 8 o'clock, he will take his seat to witness the theatrical performance (in honour of his birthday.)

19th.—The Superintendant of the Silk manufactures of Hang-chow petitions the Emperor to remit the usual tribute for two years, in consequence of their inability to pay it owing to the distress caused by the incursions of the rebels. His Majesty grants the petition.

20th.—Ying-yuen (英元) a Member of the Imperial Household, and President of the Board of Censors, presents a petition in reference to the following case. In the eighth month of the past year, Wang-keun, the brother of Wang-tseuen, a native of Peking, bought four oxen, one of which dying suddenly, he gave away the carcase in presents. A wicked inhabitant of the same village, named Lëw-shwang, because he did not receive a present of a portion of the ox, placed himself at the head of a band of ruffians, and going to the house of Wang-keun shot him down, while the rest of the gang, who were armed with swords, fell upon him, and battering in his skull and face, killed him. The petitioner begs the Emperor to issue orders that the matter be investigated. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

21st.—The Sacrificial Board petition the Emperor to the effect that the 28th of this month will be a day of abstinence, and that the Brass Man * will be sent to the palace.

(2) Kwŏh-sëw (國秀), Censor for Peking, presents a petition. The Emperor having given permission to keep the rice sheds open for two months longer than usual, in consequence of the poverty of the people (see Pek. Gaz. for April 12th), the petitioner prays that the Board of Revenue may be ordered to pay the expense of rice and fuel for each day's consumption. This year from 700 to 800, and in some instances 1,000 persons have been fed at these places, the rice being distributed daily. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(3) Wang Wăn-shaou (王文韶) presents a supplementary petition, praying that the proper Board may be ordered to confer rewards upon two officials connected with the Salt and Tea tax office, for their diligence and carefulness in the discharge of their duties. These officials themselves disclaim any title to further reward, on the ground that they have already received numberless favours from the Emperor. His Majesty grants the petition.

April 22nd.—The Board of War petitions the Emperor to appoint officers to see that the day of abstinence is properly observed, and His Majesty nominates eight officials for that purpose.—The Sacrificial Board also petition the Emperor to appoint a Reader of Prayers for the occasion, and His Majesty confers that appointment upon K'hing-fuh (慶福.)

(2) Paou Yuen-shin (鮑源深) presents a supplementary petition. Chang Shoo-ping informs the petitioner that in the 9th year of the present reign he re-

* An image of Buddha carried in procession to the Palace, to remind the Emperor of each day of abstinence.

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ceived the Imperial commission to enlist six Cantonments of troops to protect the River in Shanse province; and he has now occupied his post for three years. During the past winter he received frequent communications from his mother, whose thoughts were constantly reverting to him, and who resides in the distant province of Këang-soo. Owing, however, to the severity of the winter, and the importance of his duties, he could not venture to ask for leave of absence. Now, the ice being melted, and business being lax, he asks for three months leave to visit his mother. He puts an officer in his place, to discharge his duties during his absence. His Majesty grants the petition.

(3) Paon Yuen-shin (鮑深源) Deputy Governor of Shanse, petitions on behalf of Le K'hing-ngaou, the Treasurer of the province. The Emperor gave permission to this official to return to his native place and put on mourning for the death of his mother, and allowed him 100 days leave of absence for that purpose (see Gazette for April 13th.) The petitioner, however, begs on his behalf, that he may be permitted to resign his office and complete the full period of mourning. His Majesty declines answering immediately.

April 23rd.—The Deputy Governor of Chëh-këang, named Yang Chang-seun, petions in reference to the falling down of the stone embankment at the Eastern sea barrier, within the boundary of Nëen-sin. This disaster was caused by the violence of the waves, and the petitioner has repaired the damage by degrees, by driving piles and forming a new bank. Also, at the Western sea barrier, within the boundary of Ung-sin, the embankment was destroyed by mountain torrents, and this has been also repaired by the petitioner in the same way. The petitioner forwards the accounts for these repairs. His Majesty replies that the matter is laid before the Board of Works.

(2) Shwuy-lëen-kung-t'ang petitions to the effect that a recently appointed Taou-tae has arrived at his post. The former Taou-tae of Fung-t'ëen-foo, Kin-chow-foo, and the Shan-h'ae barrier retired from his post in the second month of the past year in consequence of the death of one of his parents, and King-füh the Taou-tae of Këwkëang (九江) was ordered to fill the vacancy. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

24th.—The Sacrificial Board presents a petition to the Emperor praying for the appointment of officials to distribute the sacrificial offerings—(see Gazette for April 5th); and His Majesty has appointed four officers for that purpose. This Board also petitions that Princes may be appointed to offer prayers and sacrifices to Heaven, Earth, Ancestors, and the Gods of the land. His Majesty has appointed the Princes C'hing (鄭), Yu (豫) K'hih (克), and Shun (順).

(2). An Imperial Edict. Wang K'hae-t'ae petitions with regard to his special duties. He prays that the custom of purchasing office may be abolished, as also the practice of permitting public officers to remain unemployed; that recommendations of officials may be restrained within proper limits as to their number; that former anti-extortion allowances may be continued; that the number of graduates chosen at each examination may be more limited; and that the army may be well drilled. Each of these suggestions argue ability in the petitioner, and we command the proper Boards to consult carefully on these matters and to report. Respect this.

(3) An Edict states that Lew Chang-yew and Fung-tsae have petitioned the Emperor to bestow rewards upon certain officials killed in engagements with the rebels at Sze-ngan-foo and Chin-ngan-foo, and that His Majesty has referred the matter to the proper Board. Respect this.

(4) Ming-ngan petitions with regard to the late robbery of the seal of office belonging to the Board of Punishments at Peking. The petitioner states that the thief has been arrested, tried, and condemned to be beheaded; and he prays that both himself and the officers who had charge of this seal may be handed over to the Board for punishment. Four officers are appointed to guard the seal in succession, by night. The petitioner frequently exhorted these officers to carefulness in the discharge of their duty, and yet the seal, together with a jacket, were stolen on the 22nd of the first month of the present year, at midnight. The culprit, it appears, lent some money to one of the servants of the Board, who was unable to repay him, but told him that the seal of the Board was made of the best silver, and advised him to steal it and repay himself. The petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders for the punishment of both these men according to their respective deserts. His Majesty orders the Board of Punishments to consult about the case and to report. (See also Gazette for March 25th.)

25th.—To-morrow the Emperor will pass through the K'een-tsing-mun and the How-

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tso-mun gates, and will ascend to the Chung-no-tëen temple to examine the statistics of the Empire. Afterwards His Majesty will return to the palace by the same route. Let all preparations be completed at 5 o'clock A.M.

April 26th.—Shaou Hăng-yu (邵亨豫) the Deputy Governor of Shen-se, presents a petition. Fang K'he-hëen, the Che-hëen of Chang-gan, has been promoted to be Deputy prefect of Ning-shen, and the petitioner prays that the vacant post may be conferred upon Chang Kwō-kenn the Chehëen of Hwa-yin, in consequence of his superior talents and knowledge of business matters. While he has occupied his present post, he has not appropriated any portion of the taxes to his own private use, and he has completed all business connected with his Yamun.—His Majesty refers the case to the Board of Civil Appointment.

(2) The post of Che-hëen of the district of Hëen-ning is vacant, and the same official petitions the Emperor to confer the appointment upon Hoo Yuen-cheou, who is at present Che-hëen of Yu-lin, as this official is a scholar, and has never been accused of any irregularity.

27th.—Kung Kwang-tsin the Che-hëen of Tsing-pëen, reports to the same official that the walls of the city, which are more than four *le* in circumference, having been much injured by the attacks of the Mahomedan insurgents, and their instant repair being absolutely necessary for the protection of the inhabitants, subscriptions were collected, and the restoration of the wall was commenced on the sixth day of the second month of the past year.

28th.—Le Hō-neen (李鶴年) an officer of the first rank, Governor-General of Fūh-këen and Chëh-këang provinces, and General for the defence of Fūh-chow (福州) petitions that the post now vacant, of acting Captain of the Naval force in Chëh-këang, may be conferred upon T'sae Hing-pang, who is at present a lieutenant in that service. This officer, although formerly degraded, was again restored to his rank by the Emperor, and has now for a length of time discharged all his duties with diligence and zeal. Hence the petitioner ventures to pray for his promotion.—His Majesty refers the case to the Board of War.

29th.—Yang Chang-seun (楊昌濬) the Deputy Governor of Chē-këang, petitions with regard to the re-writing of the books in which the various particulars of taxes, remitted in the province by the Emperor, were entered; and which were burnt some time ago by the rebels.—His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of Revenue.

(2) Low K'hwān-yih (劉坤一) presents a supplementary petition. It appears that two officers stationed on the Yellow River, the Commodore Hwang She-lūh, and the Lieutenant-Colonel Yen K'he-kwei, both decorated with a peacock's feather, were formerly dilatory in the discharge of their duties of defence, and transgressed the rules of the force to which they were attached; and hence they were expelled by the Admiral-in-chief. These officers did not, however, manifest the least repentance for their misconduct, but on the contrary, even dared to enter the cantonment and to implore in a shameless manner that they might be reinstated. Such conduct was presuming and disorderly, and excludes these officers from the slightest hope of mercy. The petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders that they both be deprived of their peacock's feathers, and that they be degraded to the rank of lieutenants, as a warning to others, and in order to uphold the laws.—His Majesty grants the petition, and refers the case to the Board of War.

30th.—Chang Shoo-shing (張樹聲) Deputy Governor of Këang-soo, and acting Governor General of the Two Këang, petitions, recommending an officer to fill the vacant post of Naval Captain, in the cantonment at Chuen-sha (川沙). The previous occupant of this post, being unfit for his duties, was dismissed. The previous Viceroy, His Excellency Tsăng Kwōh-fan (曾國藩), several times petitioned the Emperor in this case, but the Board refused to ratify the appointment on the ground that the officer recommended was attached to the land force, and was therefore unacquainted with naval affairs. The fact is, however, that he formerly acted as Naval Captain for eight years; and, for a portion of that time, he was stationed at Chuen-sha. Hence the petitioner again implores the Emperor to confirm the appointment. His Majesty refers the case to the Board of War.

(2) Chang Shoo-shing (張樹聲) presents a supplementary petition, on behalf of Teen Tsae-teen, of the official rank of General-in-chief. This officer was formerly General of Division at T'ae-yuen-chin in the province of Shan-se, but was degraded.

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Having been afterwards recommended for his exertions in driving out the rebels, he was reinstated. The petitioner now prays the Emperor to admit this officer to an audience, and His Majesty grants the petition.

(3) Lew K'hwăn-yih presents a supplementary petition. Shing-yuen, Prefect of Nan-k'hang-foo, and K'hen Tsŏ-lin the Che-hëen of Shan-jaou, having both lost their mothers by death, have retired from office, and the petitioner prays the Emperor to appoint two other officials named in the petition, to supply their places. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

May 1st.—Lew Yŏ-chaou (劉斌昭), and Tsin Yŭh-ying (岑毓英) have petioned that the surviving officers and soldiers, and also those who were killed when driving the nests of robbers out of Shun-ning-foo (in Yunnan), Seih-kŏ, and other places, may receive marks of distinction. His Majesty has issued an Edict referring the matter to the proper Board.

(2) Ying-yuen (英元) President of the Board of Censors, and Member of the Imperial Household, petitions with regard to the following case. Lëw Yin-lin with his brother-in-law, Le Tëen-king, opened a shop in their native village to gain a livelihood. On the night of the 29th day of the 9th month of the 10th year of the present reign, a band of thieves broke open the door of the house, frightened the inmates by firing off matchlocks, and carried away 120 Taels in silver, together with more than 30 receipt tickets. Tëen-king's mother coming out to prevent the thieves from stealing the property, they murdered her, and carried off the booty. The robbers afterwards bribed the prefect, and escaped punishment. The petitioner prays that the prefect may be punished, and the thieves arrested and brought to trial.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(3) Tsae-yaou (載耀) a Member of the Imperial Household, petitions the Emperor to grant him one month's leave of absence for the recovery of his health.—His Majesty grants the petition.

2nd.—His Excellency Chang Shoo-shing (張樹聲) acting Governor General of the Two Këang, together with His Excellency Gan-seih, officer of Revenue for the province of Këangsoo, petition. Formerly, during the Ming Dynasty, a temple was erected and sacrifices offered to Chang Kwŏh-we (張國維) Deputy Governor of Soochow. This temple having fallen into decay, being more than one hundred years old, and being now under process of restoration, the petitioners pray the Emperor graciously to order that the matter be recorded in the Sacrificial Register and that sacrifices be offered to the aforesaid official every Spring and Autumn.—His Majesty commands the Board of Rites to consult and report.

(2) His Excellency Lew Yŏ-chaou (劉斌昭) Governor General of Yunnan and Kwei-chow, and His Excellency Tsin Yŭh-ying (岑毓英) Deputy Governor of Yunnan, petition the Emperor to the effect that, as the Province of Yunnan is now tranquillized, the Examinations for the second literary Degree may be held during the present year (癸酉 i.e. 1873.)—His Majesty replies that the matter has been referred to the Board of Rites.

May 4th.—The Sacrificial Board petition the Emperor to proceed in person to the Altar of Heaven to offer sacrifice. They also pray His Majesty to appoint a Reader for the occasion. Khing-fuh (慶福) has been appointed. This Board further pray that two Officers of the Guards may be appointed distributors of the sacrificial meat &c, and His Majesty has nominated Wăn-show and Tseuen-yow.

(2) Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions the Emperor as to a request made by the Literati of Tëen-tsin (天津) for permission to build a temple to Tsăng Kwŏh-fan (曾國藩) at that place. His Majesty grants the petition.

5th.—Tŏ-lun-poo-paou-ying petitions the Emperor on behalf of the garrison at Kho-poo-too. The soldiers collected in that place are numerous, in consequence of the presence of the Rebels, and the rations usually allowed are therefore insufficient. The petitioner begs that 100,000 Taels may be sent to make up the deficiency. His Majesty orders the Board of Revenue to deliberate at once, and report on the matter.

6th.—A petition has been presented from the Officers of the Guards, praying the Emperor to appoint officers to patrol within the walls of the temple of Heaven (to exclude spectators during the offering of the sacrifices.) His Majesty has appointed T'sing-how (the father of the Empress) and five others.

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(2) Tsăng Peih-kwang (曾璧光) petitions the Emperor for 1,000,000 catties of Zinc, to sell in order to raise a fund to meet the expenditure at the approaching examination for the second literary degree in the province of Kwei-chow. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

7th.—To-morrow the Emperor will pass through the Khëen-tsing-mun, the Ta-tsing-mun, and the Ching-yang-mun gates, and, passing along the stone road, will enter the Altar gate, and proceed to the Temple of the Imperial Expanse (Heaven) to burn incense. Afterwards His Majesty will enter the Palace of Abstinence.

(2) Ying-yuen (英元) presents a petition from a Military graduate of the district of We, in the province Shan-tung, regarding the murder of his nephew. The victim was enticed by a shopkeeper to spend the night in his house, on the 23rd of the 8th month of the past year; and on that night the murder was committed, and the body was laid at the door of a third person, who immediately informed the Che-hëen. That Magistrate examined the wounds on the body, and arrested the murderer who, however, escaped punishment by bribery. The Criminal judge was then appealed to, but that official referred the case back to the District Magistrate. The petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders that the case be properly tried. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(3) Le Tsung-ho (李宗羲) returns thanks to the Emperor for his appointment as Viceroy of the Two Këang, and announces that he has taken over the seals of office. The petitioner considers that, notwithstanding his own stupidity, no one in ancient times has ever enjoyed so much of the Imperial favour as he has.

8th.—To-morrow about 4 a.m. the Emperor will offer sacrifice (to Heaven), after which he will remain a short time at the Palace of Abstinence. His Majesty will then go out at the Altar gate, and, entering the Ching-yang-mun gate from stone road, will proceed to the Temple of the God of War to offer incense; after which he will return to the Palace by the Ta-tsing-mun gate.

9th.—I, Wang K'hae-t'ae (王凱泰) the Deputy Governor of Fŭh-këen province, kneel and petition, having received the Imperial permission to express my sentiments on certain subjects. I have respectfully read in the *Court Gazette* of the 26th day of the 1st month of the present year, an Imperial order to the effect that all the Princes and Ministers, together with the high officials of each province should discharge their duties to the Emperor with justice and fidelity. I perceive that, from the moment your Majesty commenced to reign, your sole object has been to govern your subjects well. Since I entered upon office I have never in the most minute degree made any return for the Imperial bounty, although, whether in your Majesty's presence or not, I have always aimed at doing so. I feel ashamed that I have no matured plans or ideas to lay before your Majesty, and yet I dare not, consulting my own ease, refrain from expressing my simple and stupid thoughts. I will, therefore, respectfully select certain matters which I have myself witnessed, and which require alteration; and, arranging these under six heads, pray your Majesty to permit me to treat of them *in extenso*.

[The only part of the essay of sufficient interest for translation is the following, regarding purchase of office.]

With regard to putting a stop to the practice of purchasing office in order to uphold the laws relating to official appointments: History records that Szu-ma Sëang-joo* obtained office by purchase. Also, it is recorded in a book of the Han Dynasty, that the people were ordered to send in money cheques in order to be appointed to office. Thus, the practice of purchasing office is of ancient date. It was necessary that there should be an overplus of money in a family, in those days, to enable the candidate for office to make such a present as would be considered a suitable return for the Imperial favour in appointing to office. Even men of talent were to be found among these purchasers of office. From the period of the diminution of the price of purchase to the present time, more than 100 Taels are required for an appointment to inferior rank, and more than 1,000 Taels for a slightly higher appointment. The appointment to Taou-tai or Prefect, according to ancient rule, cost more than 10,000 Taels, but this is now reduced to 3,000 or 4,000 Taels. If a family are poor, and a member of it wishes to enter on the public service, he must either beg money from his relatives and friends, or he must borrow from merchants, and then expend

* Commonly called the Compassionate Musician. It is said that his pity for women was so great, that his garments were always stained with tears. One of his favourite sayings was entitled "Females attract Males."

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his principal to obtain profit (*i.e.* buy office.) Such vileness surpasses all description ! &c.

May 11th.—Ting Paou-ching (丁寶楨) junior guardian to the heir apparent, an officer of the first rank, and Deputy Governor of Shan-tung, presents a supplementary petition. Of all the ten Foos in the province of Shan-tung, T'ae-gan-foo is the most wretched. Its boundary touches on Tse-ning-chow and three other districts; the place is remote and extensive; and official duties are onerous; so that this place is different from all others in the province. Beyond the extra allowance granted by the Emperor, no perquisites can be obtained there. The extra allowance for this Foo is 3,000 taels, of which sum only 40 per cent is received by the Prefect after all deductions. This sum not being sufficient to meet all expenses, it has become necessary to implore the Emperor to grant some pecuniary relief to the prefect. The petitioner suggests that 26 per cent alone be deducted from the extra allowance, for the army expenses; that the allowance be paid in silver of market value; and that the deductions for constables and for embankments remain as heretofore, the remainder, amounting to 600 taels, being in future not deducted. This arrangement, the petitioner proposes, should commence from the spring of the present year. The treasurer of the province wrote to the petitioner urging him to lay this matter before the Emperor. His Majesty orders the proper Board to consult and report.

(2) Tŏ-lun-poo (托倫布) and others present a supplementary petition. It is on record that His Excellency the Assistant Minister K'hwei-chang and others, formerly prayed the Emperor that ten teachers of foreign drill and two Ensigns might be sent from Tientsin (天津) in the Province of Chili, to the Boundary (Ili) to give instruction to the soldiers there. It is also on record that King-leen (景廉) the Adjutant General of Wooloo-mŭh-t'se wrote to the effect that his Cantonment having received orders to adopt the foreign rifle, the soldiers must be drilled to use it, and teachers must be employed to instruct them thoroughly. Instructors have accordingly been sent to these places. The Ensigns sent to the Boundary have now returned, having fulfilled their commission; and the Instructors in foreign drill, finding that the climate (水土) does not agree with them, have applied for permission to return to the Cantonment to which they belong. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

(3) Ting Paou-ching (丁寶楨) petitions on behalf of a degraded Che-hëen. Choo Sëang-ke, the Che-hëen of Fei-ching District, (Shantung), was formerly degraded to a subordinate position, in consequence of a defalcation in his accounts which he could not make up, and his property was confiscated. The deficiency amounted to the sum of Tls. 1,468.80, together with taxes received but unaccounted for to the amount of 238 Taels, 20 cents, 4 candareens, and 7 cash. Since his degradation, this official has paid up these sums, and both the Provincial Treasurer and the Criminal Judge have written to request the petitioner to pray the Emperor to restore the delinquent to office, and to forgive his crime, as he has paid back the money. Not only has the criminal made good the deficiency in his accounts, but he is now thoroughly ashamed of his conduct, and hence the petitioner prays the Emperor to give him back his peacock's feather, and to restore him to his former rank. His Majesty replies that the petition has been laid before the proper Board.

12th.—Lew Chang-yew presents a supplementary petition. Some time ago the petitioner received a despatch ordering Fŭh-urh-kwŏh-ch'un to repair to Peking to receive a new appointment; and making Yen-Shoo-sŭn an officer of the fourth grade, with the appointment of Criminal Judge in the province of Kwang-se. The Taou-tae of Yew-këang was appointed to fill the latter post until the arrival of Yew Shoo-sŭn. Fŭh-urh-kwŏh-ch'un entered upon his office on the 8th day of the 12th month of the past year; and having discharged his duties, since that time, with diligence, he has now arrived in Peking in obedience to the Imperial command.

The petitioner, in another petition, prays that the aforesaid Taou-tae of Yew-këang may receive some other appointment, as Yew Shoo-sŭe, for whom he has hitherto acted, has entered upon his office. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of both petitions.

13th.—Yang Chang-seun, the Deputy Governor of Chĕ-këang, petitions to the effect that the tribute junks of that province have all sailed for Peking.

(2) King-lin (景霖) petitions that four officials, members of the Board which controls the affairs of the Palace, who have

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subscribed together and repaired the Imperial road, may be rewarded with honorary titles. His Majesty grants the petition.

(3)—Tsae-t'seen 載 遷 petitions. The petitioner considers that, having been appointed by the favour of the Emperor to take charge of the Imperial Tombs, he is bound to discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability. On entering upon office the petitioner reverently examined the gold and silver utensils, together with the furniture covers, &c., and found that every thing was correct according to the various entries in the books. Also, there was no deficiency in the number of the oxen and sheep reared in the folds and pens, for sacrificial purposes. The money and rice in treasury and granary were all correct, together with the various materials to be used in repairs. The petitioner also examined into each return made by the various officials employed; and reverently and carefully inspected the Fung-shwuy arrangements at each grave, and found them to be excellent. The trees also are all in a flourishing condition. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

May 14th.—Le Han-chang (李瀚章) petitions with regard to information given by a merchant against Major Chang Wang-tëen, for issuing false cheques. An officer was appointed to inquire into the matter, and he found the accusation to be correct; whereupon the Major was ordered to pay the money due to the merchant, was expelled from the Cantonment, and was sent back to his native place. The petitioner, on examining into the case, finds that the Major acted in the manner reported, with an intention to cheat, and he is therefore a worthless fellow to whom no mercy must be shown. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to degrade the criminal from his rank in the army, and to punish him severely as a warning to others.—His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) The Governor-General of the eastern bank of the Yellow River, petitions the Emperor with regard to a vacancy caused by the death of Captain Fan Ching-këë, and recommends an officer, a native of Shan-tung, who is young and strong, and is also well skilled in naval tactics, to supply his place.—His Majesty refers the matter to the Board of War.

15th.—Ting Paou-ching (丁寶楨) presents a supplementary petition. The 18th day of the 4th month of every year is the day for sacrificing to the T'ae Mountain (泰山.) * The Emperors have always made grants of incense and sacrificial offerings to the Deputy Governor, the Provincial Treasurer, and the Criminal Judge, to be offered up by one chosen amongst themselves; and the present year's offerings have been brought to Shan-tung by a Member of the Palace Board. The petitioner himself cannot go to offer the customary sacrifices to the Mountain, in consequence of his being obliged to superintend the cultivation of the land, and he has therefore deputed the Provincial Treasurer to sacrifice to the T'ae Mountain on the usual day, in order to respond to the sincere intention of the Emperor in seeking happiness for his subjects.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

(2) Hëa Yew-lun (夏猷綸) the acting Taou-tae of T'ae-wan (Formosa), petitions the Emperor, returning thanks for his appointment. The petitioner states that on the 1st day of the 2nd month of the present year, he entered upon his office by preparing a table, with incense, and worshipping with his face towards the Palace.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

(3) Yih Yung (奕榕) a Member of the Imperial Household, petitions with regard to a vacancy caused by the death of Adjutant General Tsae Hwuy, and praying the Emperor to appoint some officer to the vacant post. On the 12th day of the 3rd month the deceased petitioned the Emperor for a month's leave of absence in consequence of serious illness. His disease increasing, and no relief being experienced from medical treatment, he died on the 19th. The petitioner himself went to see the sick man when dying, and the latter observed that he hated himself for becoming suddenly ill, because, in consequence, he could only requite the Emperor's favour shown towards him, in the Coming Age—(*i.e.* when he shall again appear in the world). Although this officer was 60 years of age when he was appointed Adjutant-General, yet his mind was strong and active, and he performed his duties with the utmost care and diligence. His eldest and second son were both with him at the time of his death, having retired from office on the death of their mother; and

* This Mountain is the Olympus of China, and is regarded as the great Ancestor of all other mountains, and the offspring of Heaven and Earth. It has been worshipped from the commencement of the Empire: *See Shoo-king, Canon of Shun.*

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they carefully prepared his coffin and grave clothes, and buried him.—His Majesty defers filling the vacancy for the present.

May 16th.—Yung Tsuen (榮全) presents a supplementary petition on behalf of his Secretary, Kaou Tih-shen, a graduate of the third Degree, (進士), and a native of Honan. This official has been now absent from his home for 28 years, during which period of time he has acted as Secretary in the Cantonment of the petitioner. His father became ill and died in an inn at Peking, and the son could not go to see him before his death. His mother is now upwards of 80 years of age, and he wants to return home to see her; but, as the petitioner cannot dispense with a Secretary at present, the latter has been ordered to remain at his post.—His Majesty, in compliance with the prayer of the petition, rewards this Secretary by appointing him Prefect, with the rank of Salt Commissioner.

(2) The same official presents another supplementary petition in reference to the case of an Adjutant-General whose carelessness in drilling his soldiers led to a riot, in consequence of which the Emperor degraded him, together with the Captain-General and three other officers of his Cantonment. The Adjutant-General has since shown diligence in searching out rebels, in the place to which he was banished; and he has also collected together under his command the soldiers of two cantonments which, being without a commander, were disbanded. In consequence of these services, the petitioner prays the Emperor to restore this officer and his companions to their former rank.—His Majesty grants the petition.

May 17th.—The Emperor issues a decree concerning certain officers. The abilities and merits of General Koo-kih-keih-t'ae have long been brought before His Majesty's notice; the proper Yamun is therefore ordered to consult and draw up a report in this case in order that the General may be rewarded according to law. His Majesty also orders that the General's grandson be presented at Court when he is old enough.—The Taou-tae of Ning-hëa in the province of Kan-suh is dismissed from office, as he is lazy and cannot perform his duties satisfactorily.—Le Yun-lin, who was formerly degraded from office, is to be sought for and restored to his rank in Kan-suh.

18th.—Chang Shoo-shing (張樹聲) returns thanks for his appointment to the office of Deputy Governor of Këang-soo province. He arrived at Soochow on the 22nd day of the 3rd month, when he worshipped towards the Palace in the usual manner, and commenced his official duties.

(2) Chang-shun (長順) presents a supplementary petition, to the effect that his subordinate, King-kwei, a member of the office controlling the dependant states, although discharging his duties with accuracy and diligence, is however weak in constitution, and cannot endure the cold. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to allow that official to return to Peking, and to issue orders that some one else be sent to the petitioner in his stead.

19th.—His Excellency Viscount Tso Tsung-tang, (左宗棠), commissioned by the Emperor, Governor-General of Shen-se and Kan-suh, kneels and petitions with regard to the driving out of the nests of rebels from their newly built city near Suh-chow in Kan-suh province, and from their Temple erected for worship. From the 12th month of the past year to the 10th day of the first month of the present year, the rebels suffered constant defeat, and several of their leaders were killed. On the night of the 10th, the spies reported that the rebels were about to be reinforced by the arrival of more than 4000 men, and with more than 1000 camels bearing provisions. This reinforcement was marching secretly towards the north gate of the city. Orders were immediately given to attack this force, of which several scores were killed, and 18 prisoners were taken, with more than 200 camels. The rebels afterwards erected a strong fort, which was attacked at several points at once, and a numberless amount of rebels were killed. During the attack on this fort, the rebel artillery suddenly ceased firing, and while the Imperial troops were wondering what was the matter, the rebels were observed putting two matrons to death in front of their lines, as a charm to save them from defeat. The engagement was again commenced; numbers of rebels were killed at various times, and finally the fort was completely destroyed.

20th.—On the 21st (of the first month) the rebels, Cavalry and Infantry, to the amount of more than 1,000 men, made a sortie, and attacked one of the Cantonments of the Imperial troops, but were finally defeated. On that night about midnight, orders were given to attack and destroy the Temple erected by the rebels for worship. The strongest soldiers were chosen for this service, and ambuscades were laid

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close to the temple on three sides. About 4 o'clock in the morning the guns were brought to bear upon the building, and the troops opened fire, throwing in shell. The rebels, being alarmed, made a hasty sortie, and were surprised by the ambuscade in that quarter, who defeated and scatt[illegible] them in all directions. At day-break, sca[illegible] ladders were brought up, and the city [illegible] entered on the west side; and the troo[illegible] who scaled the walls then opened the gates and admitted their companions. The Temple was thus taken, and not a rebel in it escaped. This place of worship the Mahomedans say is the tomb of their early ancestors, who died on their first coming to China, and whose shades all rest there. Hence their respect for this building and their desperate defence of it. The petitioner prays the Emperor to confer titles of honour upon the officers and soldiers who fell during this campaign, in order to appease their souls. His Majesty grants the petition.

May 21st.—On the 28th of the present month (May 24th), in consequence of the great scarcity of rain for some time past, the Emperor will go to the Ta-kaou-tëen temple to offer prayers. His Majesty has also appointed two of the Princes and two other officials to pray for rain in four other temples.

(2) Le Hung-chang [李鴻章] presents a supplementary petition in consequence of information received from the Prefect of Shin-chow, in the province of Chihli, regarding the great distress existing in that locality in consequence of continued inundations. The walls of the city which were last repaired in the 19th year of the Emperor K'ëen-lung (1755) have now for a long time fallen into decay, and the Prefect has issued a proclamation calling upon the resident gentry of the place to subscribe according to their ability, in order that the suffering people may be employed to repair them. The works were commenced on the 12th of the third month, and the petitioner, in making these particulars known to the Emperor, prays His Majesty graciously to bestow rewards upon the contributors when the walls are completed.

(3) The same Official presents another petition to the following effect. The Autumn term for the trial of prisoners is now approaching, and the petitioner being at present at Tien-tsin, where he is engaged in regulating matters concerning the foreign merchants, and in receiving the Imperial tribute sent by sea, cannot at present return to his own duties. He therefore proposes that the Provincial Treasurer, the Criminal Judge, and the Che-hëen of Paou-ting, be sent to his Yamun to conduct the trials in his stead, and thus avoid delay.

May 21st.—The sub-prefect of Peking petitions the Emperor to the following effect. Yesterday the petitioner received a letter from his family, who reside in Kwang-se, stating that his mother has been seized with vertigo and cannot move without assistance; and he therefore prays the Emperor to allow him to return home until his mother recovers.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(2) Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) presents a supplementary petition. Last year great distress prevailed in Tien-tsin and the surrounding country in consequence of inundations; and a General, degraded some time ago, an officer of the first rank and decorated with the peacock's feather, gave Tls. 1,000 for the relief of the sufferers. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to reward him for his liberality.—His Majesty commands that the General be restored to his former rank and honours.

(3) Ts'ëen Ting-ming (錢鼎銘), Deputy Governor of Honan, petitions in reference to a dutiful daughter who cut a piece of flesh from her arm, in order to cure her father of his sickness. In the present Holy Dynasty, filial piety rules the Empire, and this doctrine originates in the female sex. The petitioner's birth place is Tae-tsang in the province of Këang-soo. In the district of Chin-yang there lived a daughter remarkable for her filial piety, whose name after her marriage, was Mrs. Wang. In the fifth year of the reign of the Emperor Hëen-fung, this young lady's father became dangerously ill, and his filial daughter, lighting incense sticks, announced (to the gods) her desire to sacrifice her own body for her father's sake. After this announcement, her father's illness increasing, and his physicians being unable to cure him, this filial daughter secretly cut off a piece of flesh from her arm, and putting it into the medicine prescribed, gave it to her father who, on eating it, immediately recovered. Some time afterwards the daughter's female attendants, perceiving the mark on her arm, questioned her as to the cause and learned from her the facts already stated. There was not a single individual of all those who heard the narrative, who was not struck with amazement. Shortly after this, the young lady was married to a graduate of the first degree, and she faithfully discharged

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all the duties of married life. In the sixteenth year of the Emperor Hëen-fung, in consequence of her excessive grief for the death of her father, she pined away and died in a year after that event; being then only 29 years of age. The petitioner examined into the case when at home, and could not endure to conceal the facts; and he now prays the Emperor to order, as His Majesty has always done in such cases, that a triumphal arch be erected to the memory of the deceased daughter, in order to make known her filial piety.—The Emperor refers the case to the Board of Rites.

May 22nd.—King-lin (景霖) kneels and petitions in reference to the appointment of two cooks to prepare the sacrificial victims at the King-ling cemetery, and recommends two efficient persons to the Emperor.—His Majesty appoints the two persons recommended, and states that the proper Board has been informed of the matter.

(2) Ying-yuen (英元) petitions with regard to an appeal case. A dispute arose between two persons, with regard to a piece of land to which both laid claim; and one of them, with an accomplice, set upon the other and killed him. The wife of the murdered man gave information of the murder at the Che-hëen's office; but the murderer bribed the brother of the murdered man to go to the Che-hëen and make a statement to the effect that there was no necessity whatever to inquire further into the matter. The father of the plaintiff in the case informed the wife of the deceased what had taken place, so that enmity arose between him (the father) and the brother of the deceased; whereupon this brother, meeting him on the bank of an adjoining river, demanded money from him as a pretext, and when refused, killed him and threw the body into the river. The plaintiff went to seek for his father's body but could not find it; so the grandfather of the plaintiff went to lodge information at the magistrate's office; the police runners, however, put him into prison, on pretence that the District Magistrate had ordered them to do so. The plaintiff therefore, being in great distress about the affair, has laid his complaint before the Prefect and the Criminal Judge, both of whom referred him back to the District Magistrate. This case is now referred to His Majesty, who replies that the petition is recorded.

May 22nd.—Ying-yuen (英元) petitions the Emperor with regard to information which he has received from a native of the district of Nuy-hwang, in the province of Honan. The informant states that two of his relatives, in consequence of their poverty, stole some fuel from a neighbour to cook their food. This theft coming to the ears of the neighbour, the latter had them both arrested, together with another brother who took no part whatever in the theft. The three prisoners were taken before the District Magistrate, and having been beaten were set at liberty. The brother who was wrongfully accused, harbouring revenge in his heart, declared that he would kill the neighbour who had brought the false accusation against him. This threat coming to the ears of the neighbour, he hired an assassin to kill the guiltless brother, and instructed him to bring back with him some proof that the deed had been accomplished. The assassin subsequently cut off the man's left ear, and taking it to the neighbour as proof that his adversary was killed, received the promised reward. This neighbour, however, afterwards discovered that his adversary was not killed, but merely had his ear cut off; so he led on his son and others, armed with swords, to the house of the latter and, binding him, led him away by force and bribed the police runners to put him into prison. He then consulted with them to murder the prisoner, and the Magistrate being deceived with a false report of the prisoner's illness, the latter was murdered by some means or other, and the body was concealed. The petitioner prays the Emperor to issue instructions in this case. —His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

May 23rd.—Ting-paou-ching (丁寶楨) petitions with regard to an Overseer of Rivers who, regardless of the laws of the Empire, defrauded the Imperial Treasury of the sum of Tls. 445, 3 mace, 7 candareens, and 2 cash. The petitioner prays the Emperor to degrade this officer from his rank, and to order him up to Peking to be tried for his offence.—His Majesty grants the petition.

May 24th.—An Imperial Edict has been issued to the following effect. The Censor Wënming (文明) informs the Emperor that certain servants of the palace have transgressed the laws by riding in a disorderly manner, and prays His Majesty to prohibit a repetition of such conduct. On the 13th of the present month, after the performance of the sacrifices, and before the return to the palace, suddenly all the Eunuchs rode about in disorder, each striving to get before the others. From the Ching-yang-mun gate through all the other gates, they kept the very centre of

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the road, and the rest of the Imperial attendants followed their example in this respect. Such conduct is contrary to law. They did not dismount until they arrived up close to the Woo-mun gate, and the guards at the gate did not attempt to prevent this irregularity. The petitioner prays the Emperor to prohibit this conduct for the future. Whenever the Imperial cortege sets out or returns to the palace, the attendant officials should all follow in an orderly manner, but the conduct of the Eunuchs and the other attendants, on the occasion reported by the petitioner, was most unbecoming, and they all deserve to be reprimanded. His Majesty issues stringent orders to the commander of the Eunuchs and the captain of the guards at the Woo-mun gate; and commands that the laws which bear upon the case be posted up for the information of all concerned.

May 25th.—The office of Imperial guards petitions the Emperor to appoint officials to superintend the sacrifices to the dead beyond the frontiers of China.—His Majesty appoints two officers for that purpose.

(2.) The Prince Kung (恭王) and others return thanks to the Emperor for graciously bestowing upon them presents of gauze (for summer wear).

(3.) An Imperial edict says: The sub-Prefect of Peking petitions to the effect that his eldest son is now District Magistrate at Ting-hing in the province of Chihli,* and he therefore considers it his duty to pray the Emperor to remove the latter to some other post.—His Majesty commands the Board of officers to consult and report on the case.

(4) Shaou Hang-yu (邵亨豫) presents a supplementary petition. Chang-kwōh-gan, General-in-chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Chang Kēae-fūh, and an officer of the second rank of the 9th degree named Chow Tāng-yun, some time ago left their own Cantonment, and joined that of the General-in-Chief in the province of Kan-sūh. These officers have been guilty of forging money cheques and sealed orders, which they intended to use for the purpose of cheating. They were not allowed to make use of those false documents, however, having been put under arrest by the Prefect of Kēen-chow, and the General of the Cantonment. As the Emperor alone can degrade officers of high rank, the petitioner prays His Majesty to deprive the two first mentioned of their commissions, and to issue orders that the three be punished for their lawless conduct. His Majesty grants the petition, and orders that the culprits be tried and punished according to law.

May 26th.—The Censor Ying-yuen (英元) petitions with regard to three relatives who were murdered by two persons who laid claim to a well, which has been in the possession of the family of the deceased persons from time immemorial. As this case has not been properly tried by either the District Magistrate, the Taoutai, or the Criminal Judge, each of whom were applied to by the relatives of the murdered persons, the petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders that the case be properly investigated.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

May 27th.—Ting Gan (安定) presents a supplementary petition on behalf of a deceased General of Division who was attached to the Plain Yellow Banner. This officer was formerly employed in the province of Shan-se, and in consequence of his excellent management, together with the terror with which he inspired all rebels, the whole district under his charge enjoyed perfect tranquillity. He cared for neither heat nor cold, but both by day and by night patrolled the country, and eventually died from over-exertion. In consequence of these services, and this officer's death being caused by excessive zeal in the performance of his duties, the petitioner prays the Emperor to confer posthumous honours upon the deceased.—His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) Yung Yūh (榮鬱) and two other officials present a petition. The Chief Official at the Chang-ling Mausolea has now been in office for five years; and the petitioners pray the Emperor to allow him to retain his office for another period of five years, as a reward for his excellent management. His Majesty grants the petition.

(3) Ting Gan (安定) presents a petition on behalf of a General-in-chief whose mother has lately died. In consequence of this calamity, the petitioner prays the Emperor to grant the General 100 days leave of absence, and to issue orders that some other officer be appointed to take charge of his command during that period.—His Majesty grants the petition.

May 28th.—The Emperor issues an Edict. In consequence of the scarcity of rain during this spring, His Majesty went in person, on the 28th day of the 4th

* It is contrary to law that father and son should hold official appointments in the same province.

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month, to the Ta-kaou-teen temple to burn incense, and also sent four officers to offer incense and prayers at four other temples. On the 3rd of the present month the refreshing rain descended, owing to the protection of the Luminous Azure (昊苍)* for which His Majesty is thankful, and on the 5th day of the month intends to proceed in person to the Ta-kaou-teen temple to burn incense and return thanks, and also to send the same four officials to return thanks at the other temples.

(2) The Council of War presents a supplementary petition praying the Emperor to appoint officials to examine the Imperial Records.—His Majesty appoints four officers to perform that duty.

(3) Hung keun (洪均), the Public Examiner for the province of Hoo-pih, petitions the Emperor to appoint one Pä-kung (拔貢) † at King-chow-foo, as the scholars in that prefecture are learned and numerous.—His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of Rites and Ceremonies.

(4) Müh-too-shön petitions the Emperor in reference to the requirements of the Infantry under his command. It is the duty of the petitioner to provide watch-looks, banners, tents, and uniform for his soldiers, and he prays the Emperor to issue orders to the proper Board to supply him with money for that purpose.

May 29th.—Ts'sen Ting-ming, the Deputy Governor of Ho-nan, petitions. The petitioner has examined into the case of Lëw King-gan, formerly acting Prefect at Kwang-chow, and finds that that official has not been guilty of the two charges brought against him, and for which he was degraded, viz., permitting robbers to harass the people, and appropriating public money to his own use. He, however, fined one Fung Yew-tsing the sum of Tls. 500, and put the money into a fund used for repairing the Temple of Confucius. Doubts, however, arose as to whether the Prefect did not appropriate that sum to his own use. Moreover, instead of buying materials to repair the examination stalls he, without consulting any one, took some trees from the public grounds in order to make the necessary repairs. As this act was a slight infringement of the law, it cannot be asserted that there was no ground whatever for degrading him. The petitioner prays the Emperor to order the Board to consult as to the punishment to be inflicted in this case, as a warning to others.—His Majesty grants the petition.

May 30th.—Woo-tang presents a supplementary petition in reference to Captain Yang Poo-tsing, stationed at the town of Sung-pwan, and who, when formerly Commander of the Cantonment at Mow-chow, (in Sze-chuen,) killed one of the people and falsely asserted that the murder was committed by some soldiers. It was proved however on the trial that no soldiers were present when the man was killed. The soldiers themselves denied the charge, and insisted that Yang Poo-tsing himself was the criminal. The latter, when interrogated, refused to confess; and the petitioner therefore prays the Emperor that he may be degraded and tried for the offence by the Criminal Judge.—His Majesty grants the petition.

May 31st.—Lew Khwän-yih (劉昆一) presents a supplementary petition. A graduate of the first degree, of the District of Tsing-kiang, named Täng Tsung-yu, was killed in the second month of the seventh year of Hëen-fung, when leading on his soldiers against the rebels; and the Emperor bestowed an hereditary title of honour on his son. The son had not then attained his majority, so he only received half of the pension attached to the title. Afterwards, in the seventh year of the present reign, he obtained the degree of Military Sew-tsae, and the petitioner therefore prays that the full pension may be now given to him, and that he may be allowed to attend the Examination for the second literary degree.—His Majesty refers the case to the Board of War.

(2) Lew Khwän-yih (劉昆一) an officer of the first rank, and Deputy Governor of Keang-se, deprived of honours, but retained in office, presents a petition to the effect that he has found on investigation, that two officials who purchased office, and who have now acted as District Magistrates for one year, are worthy of being retained in office.—His Majesty refers the case to the Board of Rites and Ceremonies.

June 1st.—Wän-ming (文明) Censor for Hoo-pih and Hoo-nan, kneels and petitions with regard to the case of the Eunuchs who acted riotously and contrary to law (see *Gazette*, May 24th.) The petitioner humbly considers that Eunuchs are invariably evil disposed persons, and that they have always shown themselves to be so, from the Han and Tang Dynasties, down to the present Dynasty. Our Em-

* That is, 昊天上帝, or the deified Fëh-hi, whose body is the visible Heaven, and whose soul or "Mind" is the subtle Ether.

† A literary degree between the usual first and second degrees, conferred once in twelve years.

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peror being fully aware that all previous Eunuchs have been wicked, restrains the present ones rigorously, and if they transgress they are immediately punished. In consequence of their late disorderly conduct, His Majesty sent forth his anger like thunder, and exhibited His majestic severity towards them. The law enjoins that when the Imperial cortege is either setting out or returning, the military and other attendants shall march on the East and West side of the road; and that if either Civil or Military officials proceed in the Emperor's track, they shall receive 80 blows. Also, if on days of sacrifice, or on days when the Emperor proceeds to a temple, any attendants shout out, or rudely crowd around, they shall receive 100 blows, and their masters shall receive 50 blows with the lesser bamboo. Also, the names of those officers who, having no part in any ceremony assigned them, nevertheless bring a large number of attendants with them, shall be taken down, and punishment shall be inflicted upon them. The laws thus provide that those holding official position shall be punished, if they transgress; and who are Eunuchs that *they* dare to transgress the laws? The petitioner prays that all the palace officials may be enjoined to rule these Eunuchs with rigour. —His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

June 2nd.—Ying-yuen (英元) petitions. The plaintiff Wan She-mei has a nephew who has hitherto lived apart from him. This nephew seized the opportunity of an insurrection, during the reign of the Emperor Hëen-fung, to plunder people; and the plaintiff's father having given information to the prefect, feelings of hatred arose between the two. The nephew therefore attacked the plaintiff, and wounding him in both feet, seized and carried off some of his property. The plaintiff then got out of the way, and went to some other place to live, being afraid of his nephew. In the fourth month of the ninth year of the present reign, the plaintiff returned, and his nephew, leading on some scores of villains, attacked his house and carried off clothes and other property. He then seized the daughter of a widowed relative of the plaintiff, with the intention of selling her. The plaintiff's mother attempted to rescue the girl, and was beaten so severely by the ruffians that she committed suicide. All this coming to the ears of the prefect, that official sent persons to arrest the nephew, who, however, escaped by hiding himself in the neighbouring district, and bribing the police runners there. He afterwards came back and burnt down the house of the plaintiff, having first plundered it. The Criminal Judge, when informed, referred the case back to the Prefect. The petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders for the proper investigation of the matter.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(2) The same official petitions with regard to the following case. An inhabitant of the district of Ling-shwuy in the province of Sze-chuen, opened a salt shop; but, because he sold the salt at too high a price, the people of the district informed against him. The District Magistrate therefore consulted with the son of the person who lodged the complaint at his Yamun, which led the salt dealer to suppose that the son was the leader of the party who were opposed to him. Thus enmity arose, and the salt dealer persuaded the police runner to seize the son and starve him in prison. The dealer, after this, bribed the officer appointed to try him, and offered 30 Taels as compensation to the father for the murder of his son. The father refusing this sum, was beaten by the officiating judge, and hence the present appeal.

(3rd) Chang-shun (長順) reports that Tá-urh-tse cuts down the soldiers' rations, and having opened a shop, sells goods to them at high prices instead of giving them their money allowance. He also takes for himself the rations of those soldiers who are absent from the Cantonment on duty. All this he does from a covetous desire to cheat; and the Emperor therefore issues orders that he be degraded, and further commands the petitioner to investigate the case, to find out how much of the money received for the soldiers has been appropriated by the culprit to his own use, and to order him to make good whatever sum he has taken.

(2) Yung-yüh (榮毓) petitions in reference to the official who has charge of the trees at the Imperial Mausolea. This officer wishing to make some recompense to the Emperor has presented 1,300 Cedar trees for the Tung-ling Cemetery, and asks leave to plant them.—His Majesty gives permission.

June 4th.—An Imperial Edict is issued. Tih-ying states that there are always rebels at Keih-lin and Hih-lung-keang, and prays the Emperor to take measures to suppress them. The garrisons of both places have always been most efficient, but at present, on account of their rations being reduced, the Emperor does not exhibit the full force of his gracious consideration for them.

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His Majesty therefore orders that henceforth full rations are to be served out to these garrisons, and then they will doubtless discharge their duties assiduously as before. The generals of the Cantonments are ordered to see that each house belonging to the agriculturalist class has a board hung out, with the names of the inmates, in order that no rebels may be secreted by them. It is said that this year more than 1,000 families have removed to Keih-lin and Hih-lung-këang, as is supposed, because they found it difficult to get a livelihood at Fung-tëen, their former place of residence. The Generals are commanded to put a stop to all causeless immigration.

(2) Yang Chang-seun (楊昌濬) the Deputy Governor of Chĕ-keang, petitions that the grain tribute from that province for Peking may be conveyed to Tien-tsin by steamers from Shang-hae, as the Shantung and Honan route is disturbed by rebels, and the Ho-keen district is inundated. His Majesty replies that the Board of Revenue is informed of the matter.

(3) Lëen Ching (連成) presents a supplementary petition for the reinforcement of the garrison at Chapoo, as that place is near the sea, and is the very wind-pipe of Keangsoo and Chĕkeang provinces in importance.—His Majesty orders the Board of War to consult and report.

6th.—The Public Examiner for Kwei-chow petitions to the effect that, having been admitted to an audience, he started from Peking, and arrived at his post on the 27th day of the second month of the present year. Having received his seal of office from the proper authority, he worshipped towards Peking in the usual manner, and entered upon his duties. The petitioner states that the crops appeared to be flourishing in those districts through which he passed; but that in Kwei-yang-foo, although the country around is now free from disturbance, yet, because the number of inhabitants is diminished, the amount of land cultivated is small. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

(2) Three officers of the 5th Grade of the Upper Division of the Army, petition. The petitioners have carefully examined into the case of the degraded officer Too-fŭh, who, in consequence of his bearing the same name as another person who was guilty of crime, was deprived of his rank through mistake; and the Emperor promised to restore him to office on the first vacancy. When a vacancy afterwards occurred, this officer, without waiting for orders from the Board of War, petitioned the Emperor on the subject. What he wrote also was inaccurate; for in his first petition he prayed to be appointed to the 4th Division, and in his second he asked to be restored to his former rank in the 5th Division. On examining the first petition carefully, the petitioners perceived that the characters stating the rank of the aforesaid officer have been inserted in the place of two others which have been erased, and they therefore pray the Emperor to order an enquiry as to whether the officer himself or the person who copied his petition made the erasure. His Majesty defers his reply.

June 7th.—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章), Member of the Imperial Council, Governor General of the Province of Chihli and a Viscount of the first rank, with Yun-heu the Inspector of the Imperial Granaries, petition the Emperor to the effect that the tribute grain has now been inspected, and therefore pray the Emperor to reward those officers who have shown diligence in the discharge of this duty. —His Majesty defers reply.

(2) Le Hung-chang presents a supplementary petition, praying that Yuh-chang may be confirmed in his rank as Taoutai, for his diligence in inspecting the grain; and that Choo Ke-ngang may receive some reward, according to the Emperor's pleasure, for providing steamers to convey the grain.—His Majesty defers reply.

(3) Këaou Sung-nëen (喬松年), the Governor of the eastern bank of the Yellow River, reports that in the Province of Shantung, on the banks of the Yellow and Yun Rivers, the vacancies of Assistant and Deputy Assistant Magistrates are just twelve in number, while the expectant candidates for these offices are about one hundred persons, and he therefore prays the Emperor not to send any more candidates.—His Majesty assents.

June 8th.—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions. Le P'ei-che (李丕智) the Che-hëen of Ping-hëang, lately reported to the petitioner that he received information from a grain dealer, that on the night of the 1st of the 2nd month of the present year, thieves broke open the door of his shop, and carried off money and clothes; and that he (the Che-hëen) had examined into the matter, and found that the door of the shop had no appearance whatever of having been broken into, but that the grain dealer's assistant was slightly wounded. The petitioner doubting this story, gave

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orders to the Che-hëen of Nan-ho to go and examine into the matter. This official subsequently informed the petitioner that the doorposts and the door fastening of the shop were broken down, and that the door itself was covered with mud. The alleged thieves left behind them a pole covered with mud, which they had used to break open the door. This was, therefore, the deed of rioters and not of common thieves; so that the report of the Che-hëen of Ping-hëang is stupid. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to deprive that official of his button and to assign a limit of time within which he must arrest the rioters.—His Majesty consents.

(2) The same official presents a supplementary petition. Some time ago the petitioners recommended two officers for promotion to the first rank; but the Board applied to, refused, on the ground that such promotion would be contrary to law in the present case. The petitioner now prays the Emperor to grant them some degree of promotion in consequence of their diligence with regard to the tribute grain. —His Majesty consents.

(3.) Le Han-chang (李瀚章), Governor-General of Hoo-kwang (i. e. Hoo-pih and Hoo-nan), an officer of the first rank, with the Deputy-Governor of Hoo-pih petition that Lew Ts'eh-sëen, the Criminal Judge and acting Revenue officer of Hoopih, may be allowed to retire from office in consequence of the death of his father, and that another officer be sent to take his place.—His Majesty defers reply.

June 9th.—Too-hing-ah (都興阿) and Tsing-Khae (清凱) petition regarding a quarrel between a literary gentleman and a military officer during which wounds were inflicted. The Emperor commanded the petitioners to investigate this matter, and they now forward their report for His Majesty's inspection. Three different accounts of this transaction were sent in to the petitioners. On the 24th day of the 3rd month of the present year, they received the evidence of a graduate of the third degree (進士), a member of the Board of Punishments, named Khing-keih, to the effect that the commander-in-chief, Chang Tih-lüh, took one of his wives to see a play, and a quarrel arising, he gave the plaintiff a beating. On the 28th the petitioners received a second account of the matter from Wan-khwei, acting sub-prefect at the Sing-ming office, to the effect that King-shun, who is attached to a small post in charge of the Yellow Banner, gave evidence before him that his informant's servant went to the Temple of the Demon King to see a play, and getting into a quarrel with some soldiers, was beaten by them; whereupon the informant's cousin Khing-keih went to the Temple to inquire about the affair, and the General of the Cantonment, Lew Tih-shing, leading on a number of soldiers attacked that official, wounding him in the head and body. According to a third account, received from the Commander-in-chief himself, General Lew Tih-shing, while going his rounds in the streets, quarrelled with the literary gentleman Khing-keih, and came to blows with him, in consequence of which the General was dismissed the service, and his soldiers who took part in the affray were put into confinement. In consequence of receiving these differing accounts of the quarrel, the petitioners deputed three officials, of whom one was the sub-Prefect already mentioned, to investigate the case thoroughly. These three officials report that, according to Lëw Tih-shing's own account of the matter, his duty is to patrol the western district; and as the feast of Tsing-ming was at hand, a stage was erected, according to ancient custom, outside the Temple of the Demon King, on which to recite prayers, and offer sacrifices to the souls of the slain in battle. The Commander-in-chief Chang Tih-luh went in person to inspect the Tablets and offerings. The shopkeepers at this time had assembled on the west side of the Temple to witness the play in honour of the Gods. The General, fearing lest riotous persons should be mixed up with the spectators, every now and then led out his soldiers to patrol the place. Seeing a person dressed in ordinary clothes and cap scolding loudly and going into the Temple, he never suspected that this was the literary gentleman Khing-keih; and as he would not reply when questioned, a quarrel arose, and the General gave him a beating, assisted by one of his soldiers. Some persons exhorting the combatants, they separated. It was the General therefore who, in his pride, administered the beating himself; and the Commander-in-chief, who did not go, as alleged, to the play in company with one of his wives, had nothing whatever to do with the affair. Khing-keih was also proved to have given a false statement of the whole matter. The petitioners pray the Emperor to order the Board of Punishments of Shing-king (the Metropolis of Manchow Tartary) to examine into the case thoroughly.—His Majesty defers reply.

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June 10th.—Tsze-kang (志剛) petitions to the effect that he has been ill for a long time, and there is no prospect of his health improving; besides, in the place where he is stationed, he cannot procure any medicine; and he therefore prays the Emperor to grant him leave of absence to return home in order to procure medical advice.

(2) King-lien (景廉) presents a supplementary petition. Formerly, when General Ho-kwan, stationed at the town of Pa-le-kwăn, showed cleverness in purchasing rations and arms for his soldiers, the petitioner recommended him for promotion; now however, the General's constitution is weakened by age, and he is slow in discharging his duties; and hence, the petitioner prays the Emperor to dismiss him. His Majesty defers reply.

(3) Le Han-chang petitions that, in consequence of his intelligence and knowledge of military affairs, Wei Hing-fā may be sent to supply the place of Le Chang-yŏh, the Governor of Hoo-pih, during the temporary absence of the latter in Peking.

June 11th—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions. The expectant Tau-tae named Le Hing-juy, Prefect of Ta-ming, some time ago received permission from the Emperor to return home to Keang-ning, in consequence of the illness of his mother. He has now returned to Chili, bringing his mother with him, and the petitioner prays the Emperor to allow him to resume his duties in that province, as he is talented, and, having his mother with him, will doubtless give his whole mind to the performance of official business. His Majesty refers the case to the Board of Office.

(2) The same official presents a supplementary petition. According to information received from several persons, there lately lived a filial young lady named Pang Yun-chun, a native of the district of Hwae-ning in Gan-hwuy, the eldest daughter of Pang Tsëö-khe, the Prefect of King-chow. From her earliest years this young lady delighted in reading poetry, and took pleasure in listening to ancient and modern tales of filial piety, rectitude, purity, and chastity. She accompanied her mother to her father's residence at his official post, and never left her for a moment. In the 6th year of the present reign, the mother became seriously ill, and the daughter secretly cut off a piece of her arm and gave it to her in her medicine, whereupon the mother recovered. During the winter of the 11th year, the mother again became ill, and the daughter gave her soup and medicine, and for more than twenty days and nights never put off her own clothes. She again cut off a piece of her flesh and gave it to her mother to cure her; but the latter never recovered, and the daughter, fearing to wound her father, eat her meals as usual, and conducted herself as if nothing had happened. On the one hundreth day after the death of her mother, the daughter rose early, washed herself, put aside her head ornaments, put on clean under garments, carefully binding up the wounded places on her arms, and told her father that she was going to take her brothers and sisters to worship before the coffin of her mother, which was deposited in the Kae-fūh-sze temple. Within the precincts of this temple stands a pagoda more than 280 feet in height, and pretending that she was going to worship Buddha, this young lady told her brothers and sisters to wait for her outside. She then, with her nurse and female attendant, ascended thirteen stairs, and looking first towards the west, where her mother's coffin lay, and then towards the south, in the direction of her father's residence, she sorrowfully made three inclinations, and then threw herself down. Those who were below in vain rushed forward to save her. They only saw her with her cheek resting upon the ground; and thus she passed away, with a smile upon her countenance; being at the time only 26 years of age. This took place on the 24th day of the first month of the present year (21st February.) In this young lady's sleeve was found a paper containing two sentences; one, to the effect that she threw herself down from the Pagoda of her own free will; and the other, forbidding her relatives to change her clothes when about to place her in her coffin, and requesting them to lay her beside her mother. On opening a small casket, another written paper was discovered, in which she took leave of her father and other relatives, and stated that when her mother was dangerously ill, she burnt incense and vowed that she would accompany her mother, if she died, beneath the Earth (i.e., to Hades), and praying her father not to grieve for her.—The petitioner prays the Emperor to grant permission to build a triumphal arch to this young lady, and His Majesty consents.

June 12th.—Tso Tsung-tang (左宗棠) presents a supplementary petition. In Kan-sūh province the soldiers' rations have lately been falling short, and therefore, as opportunity afforded, the grain was inspec-

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ted in order to prevent fraudulent practices. The petitioner has now discovered that three officers, a Commander-in-chief, a General of Division, and a Brigadier, have been guilty of purloining rations, and he therefore prays the Emperor to degrade them. His Majesty consents.

June 13th.—Lew Kwăn-yih (劉坤一) Deputy Governor of Keangse, an officer of the first rank, deprived of honours but retained in office, petitions. The petitioner has received information from the acting Che-hëen of Loo-ling, that a Literary gentleman of his District, a member of the Han-lin college, has at his own expense repaired the Confucian temple at Keih-gan, with the adjoining buildings, at an outlay of more than 19,000 Taels. He has also supplied the utensils used in sacrificing, and the musical instruments, together with clothes and boots for the managers of the ceremonies, and for the musicians, at a cost of more than 3,000 Taels. Also, he has repaired the temples of Chastity and Filial Piety at an outlay of more than 3,800 Teaou; and the Examination Hall, at an expense of more than 10,000 Teaou. This gentleman has also repaired several other places of importance, and has expended in all more than 50,000 Taels, and the petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to grant him a tablet in commemoration of his public services.—His Majesty refers the case to the proper Board.

(2) Wang Wan-chaon (王文韶) the Deputy Governor of Ho-nan, petitions. The Literary gentlemen of the province of Ho-nan have begged the petitioner to pray the Emperor to restore to the lately deceased Deputy-Governor of the province the honours of which he had been deprived during life, and to give his tablet a place in the temple of renowned officers, in order that he may be sacrificed to; as during his lifetime he averted calamity from the people, all of whom preserve a thankful remembrance of his goodness.—His Majesty grants the petition.

*June 14th.—The Yamun for the management of foreign affairs having petitioned that the foreign emissaries [1] temporarily staying [2] in Peking, have fervently implored [3] an audience in order to present to Us their foreign despatches: We now command that these foreign emissaries thus temporarily staying in Peking, who have despatches to present, be admitted to an audience.

(2) Ying-yuen (英元) a President of the Board of Censors, petitions in reference to Wang Chaou-tung, a native of the District of Hwae-yuen in the province of Gan-hwuy. This plaintiff states that his father is in trade, and when lately on his way home, was robbed by sharpers of 73 dollars and more than 2,000 cash. They then murdered him by cutting off his hands and feet. These villains were arrested, and the Che-hëen investigated the matter, but they escaped by bribery. The other officials applied to refused to try the case, and referred it back to the Che-hëen.

(3) The same offical petitions in reference to the following case. Wang Yung-fung, a native of Chang-ping-chow, in Shun-t'een-foo, gives information that Yaou Sze-fan wanted to seize upon some land belonging to the plaintiff, and his mother being anxious about the matter went to Yaou Sze fang's house to entreat him to desist from his purpose, whereupon the latter poisoned her, and escaped justice by bribery. The plaintiff then brought his complaint before the petitioner, and the prefect of Shun-t'ëen was ordered to try the case. This latter official referred it to the office of the Northern Division of the Capital, but the son of the official at that office being a friend of the police runner who received the bribe to favour the culprit's escape, justice was again defeated. Hence the plaintiff again refers his case to the petitioner, who prays the Emperor to issue orders that it be properly investigated.—His Majesty replies that the case is recorded.

(4) Ying Paou-she, (應寶時), Criminal Judge for the province of Këang-soo, and holding the rank of Commissioner of Re-

* Capital letters are not used in this translation because they tend to mislead the English reader.—The fair way in which to judge of the true import of the characters used is to test their use in the Peking Gazette itself; and that is the plan adopted.

1.—使臣 used in reference to a messenger from a petty state who came to Peking in charge of a present of Elephants sent to the Emperor. *Peking Gazette 15th day, 7th moon, 10th year of present reign.* The proper designation of H. B. M's Minister, (n. gr.) used in Despatches is 大英欽差大臣; the first two characters being placed above the columns, *i.e. capitalized.*

2.—駐 used in reference to the stages through which travellers and couriers pass to their various destinations; also the stages through which the Emperor lately passed on His journey to the Imperial Tombs. *Ibid 2nd moon, 29th day* (March 27th); *3rd Moon, 15th day* (April 11th); *and 5th moon, 3rd day* (May 28th.)

3.—請籲 in Chinese etiquette, only used by the petitioner himself to express his humility. *Ibid 22nd day of 4th moon*; also see 20th day of same moon, where the phrase "奴才籲請" "your slave fervently implores," is used.

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venue, reports. After this official had served as acting Commissioner of Revenue, the Emperor permitted him to resume his post as Criminal Judge, for which he now returns thanks. On the 4th day of the 4th month he returned to his Yamun and received his seal and books from his *locum tenens*; and having prepared a table and incense he worshipped towards the Emperor's palace and entered upon office.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the despatch.

June 15th.—Ying Paou-she petitions in reference to the following case. According to the evidence of Chin Che-fan, he is 31 years of age, and lives to the west of the village of T'ëen-thow, gaining his livelihood by agriculture. On the night of the 25th of the 11th month of the 9th year of the present reign, a band of robbers came to his house and commenced beating at the door, which no one ventured to open. The robbers then set fire to it, and four female members of his family were burnt to death, and his uncle was much injured. All the money and property together with the animals in the house were completely destroyed by the fire. The Che-hëen held inquest on the bodies, and then gave orders for their burial. He also ordered the soldiers stationed in the neighbourhood to go in pursuit of the ruffians. The latter eventually escaped by bribery, and the petitioner prays the Emperor to issue orders for the thorough investigation of the affair. —His Majesty replies that the case is recorded.

(2) The same official petitions. The plaintiff in the present case is the widow of Shen Tsing-gan, an inhabitant of Chang-Khew District in Tse-nan-foo, in the province of Shan-tung; she is 56 years of age. Her husband's younger brother, named Shen Ming, was, from his infancy, given to her husband's third uncle as an adopted son. In the 8th month of the 9th year of the present reign, Shen Ming, laying a plan to thieve, in combination with his cousin, poisoned the widow's own son, who was only 6 years of age. He further bribed several companions, and assembling them together carried off all the widow's rice, clothes, and other property. He also carried away her sheep and seized upon her land. The Che-hëen ordered the culprit to restore everything which he had taken away; Shen Ming, however, not only disobeyed this order, but even sold the widow herself to a man who lived at a distant place. She subsequently made her escape, and came to Peking in search of justice.

June 16th.—The Board of Rites and Ceremonies petition that, on the 19th of the present month, no animals may be killed——The Sacrificial Board have presented the list of Ceremonies to be observed in sacrificing to Earth; and also petition the Emperor to appoint a Reader of prayers for the occasion. His Majesty appoints Khing Fuh (慶福).

(2) An Edict. Ngeh-lih-ho-poo and Khwei-chang report that a subcaptain of the lower division of the 5th grade has caused disorder in certain batteries, and ask for instructions in this case. Kwei-khing was ordered from Keih-lin to occupy the post of sub-captain at Woo-loo-mŭh-tse. While on the road to his destination he conducted himself improperly, daring to beat the soldiers in the batteries he passed, and demanding an excessive supply of sheep; a most outrageous and improper proceeding. We therefore orders that sub-captain Kwei-khing, of the eighth degree of hereditary rank, be deprived of his honours and of his commission, and that he be handed over to the proper Board for punishment, as an example to others.

June 17th—An Edict. Tsae-ts'ëen and others report the imprisonment and excessive punishment of a petty official by an underling, and pray that the latter may be handed over to the proper Board for punishment. According to the evidence in this case, Ah Chang-ah, a clerk in the office of the Prefect of Shih-mun-foo, beat to excess and imprisoned a clerk of the 7th grade named She-hing, in consequence of a gross misdemeanor committed by the latter. Now, although this inferior clerk may have guilty of the crime laid to his charge, yet the prefect himself should have been been requested to inquire into the matter; but Ah Chang-ah thus taking the law into his own hands committed a serious error, and we therefore command that, in the first place, he be dismissed from office. At the same time let She-hing also be first brought before Tsae-ts'ëen, and then let both be forwarded in charge of an officer appointed by the Governor-General of Chili, to be examined and punished by the Board of Punishments. Respect this.

18th June.—An Edict. Tso Tsung-tang (左宗棠) reports that Ching-lŭh, general-in-chief at Woo-loo-muh-tse, when formerly in Kaou-tae district extorted taxes; thus treating well-behaved persons as though they were rebels. He tyrannically slaughtered more than 200 persons, and

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falsely reporting that he had gained a great victory, petitioned to be rewarded. The petitioners pray that an Imperial official be sent to inquire into the affair. We have already deputed Kin-shun to take charge of the criminal's command, and also to transmit our orders that he be deposed from office and brought to trial, at the same time appointing officials to conduct him to Peking. The Censor Woo-ko-tüh reports that the crime which Ching-lüh has committed is a very serious one, and prays that an adequate punishment may be inflicted upon him. It is now reported to us by King-shun that all our orders have been attended to, and that the prisoner has arrived in Peking; and we therefore further command that he be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with. Respect this.

(2) Paou Yuen-shin (鮑深源,) the Deputy-Governor of Shan-se, petitions with regard to the appointment of an officer to fill the post of Che-hëen. Laou Wän-khing, the district Magistrate of Yö-yang, has been transferred to the District of T'ae-ping (in the province of Gan-hwuy,) and the petitioner recommends Chang Yung-gan as his successor. Chang Yung-gan is 37 years of age, and is a literary graduate of Tsing-ping District in the province of Shan-tung, who has had a high honorary degree conferred upon him by the Emperor. He was appointed a District Magistrate as a reward for his services against the rebels in Hoo-peh. He gives his whole mind to his duties, and is careful and accurate. His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of Official Appointments.

(3) Chang Ting-yo (張廷岳) petitions. In consequence of illness the petitioner formerly received leave of absence, and his son, a member of the Board of Works, also received four months' leave of absence to visit his father during his illness, and his mother accompanied him on that visit. The petitioner now prays that, as his own duties are heavy, and his health is not perfectly established, his son may be allowed an extended leave of absence to attend to the household affairs, while he himself devotes his own attention exclusively to the performance of the duties of his Yamun. His Majesty grants the petition.

(4) Wang Wän-chaou (王文韶) presents a supplementary petition. According to established law the families of soldiers killed or wounded in battle are entitled to receive commiseration money. In the sixth year of the reign of the Emperor Hëen-fung, in consequence of the lowness of the funds, the Deputy Governor of Hoo-nan petitioned that the money given to the families of soldiers killed out of the province might be paid out of the funds of the province in which the latter fell in battle, and not out of the funds of the province from which they were detached. To this the Board consented, adding that if those who were slain left no wives, or children, or other relatives, then the money was to be expended in sacrifices to the dead; but if the deceased left relatives behind, then, according to law, the compensation money must be given to them. This rule however, when put in practice, was found to give rise to confusion and cheating, and the petitioner therefore prays that the old practice of giving away the compensation money in the provinces from which the soldiers were detached, instead of in those in which they were killed or wounded, may be adhered to. His Majesty refers the matter to the proper Board.

June 19th.—Yung-yüh (榮毓) and others petition that certain necessary repairs may be made at the Imperial Mausolea; and also that a certain stone bridge may be put in thorough repair. His Majesty has appointed an officer to examine into the matter and report.

(2) Ying-yuen (英元) reports the following appeal case. Yang Kea-see, the plaintiff, is 32 years of age, and is a native of Show-chow in Gan-hwuy. His brother Yang Kea-t'ëen opened an eating house to gain a livelihood. At Hing-lung-tseih there lived a sharper named Tsëang Lan-lung *alias* Tsëang Tsao-ching, who frequently took his meals at the shop on credit. On the 14th day of the first month of last year, a disturbance arose on his being asked to discharge his account; and the sharper, collecting together more than a hundred ruffians armed with swords, spears, and matchlocks, these swarmed like bees around the door of the shop. Yang Kea-t'ëen came out to discuss principles of propriety with them, and received wounds in ten different places, which caused his death. One of the neighbours coming up to exhort the combatants, was shot in the throat and killed. The culprits ultimately escaped justice by bribery, and the plaintiff, in despair, refers his case to Peking. His Majesty replies that the case is recorded.

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June 19th.—Yung-yuh (榮毓) and others, petition that Foo-ko* a Secretary of the Palace Board and holding the seal, be rewarded for having expended more than 1,893 taels and 7 mace, in planting 1,300 Cedar trees at the Mausolea of the Emperor Yung Ching (A. D. 1723). The petitioners pray that this official may have the honorary rank of Assistant Captain-general of the Flank Division conferred upon him. His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) The same official prays that the Secretary of the Board of Rites and Ceremonies for the Mausolea of the Emperor Yung Ching, and who is also an officer of the 8th degree of Hereditary rank, may be retained in office for two years longer in consequence of his diligence in the discharge of his duties. His Majesty consents.

June 20th.—To-morrow morning at 2 o'clock a.m. the Emperor will offer sacrifice. His Majesty will then put off His sacrificial garments and will breakfast at the Yung-ho-kung apartments, after which He will proceed to worship at the temple of the God of Fire.

June 21st.—The Governor-General of Hoo-kwang, and the Deputy Governor of Hoo-peh petition the Emperor to appoint Examiners for the present year's examination, to be held at the latter place for the second degree (Keu-jin). His Majesty refers the matter to the Board of Rites and Ceremonies.

June 22nd.—Lew Chang-yew, Deputy Governor of Kwang-se, reports that the envoy (使臣) from the Prince of Yüĕ-nan has passed the Customs' barrier, bringing presents to the Emperor, viz., a pair of Elephant's tusks; two Rhinoceros' horns; 100 pieces of Silk; 100 pieces of Silk with white nap upon it; 100 pieces of Silk for coverlets &c.; 100 pieces of Cloth; 900 ounces of fragrant woods; 45 catties of fragrant seeds, and 45 catties of Betel-nut.

June 23rd.—Yung Chang-seun (楊昌濬) Deputy Governor of Chĕ-kĕang, petitions. According to invariable military custom, when any officer receives his dismissal, he is in duty bound to return immediately to his native place. Lieut.-Colonel Chang Kwei-fah, formerly doing duty in the Laou-sĕang Cantonment, and in the Foo-ching Banner, was, in consequence of his attention to his duties, decorated with a peacock's feather. This officer's native place is in Kĕang-se, and some time ago he received his dismissal from office; yet with daring presumption he continued to hang about the country parts of the Districts of Lin-hae and Sĕen-keu, exciting and cheating the people, and using charms, thus giving rise to disturbance; all which proceedings are contrary to law. The petitioner prays that the matter may be closely examined into, and that this officer may now be deprived of his decorations, and punished for his misconduct, as a warning to others.—His Majesty grants the petition.

June 25th.—Le Hŏ-nĕen (李鶴年) an officer of the first rank, Governor-General of Fŭh-kĕen and Chĕ-keang, and acting Commander-in-Chief at Fŭh-chow, petitions, recommending that a Captain holding the seventh degree of Hereditary rank, and doing duty at Wăn-chow, may, in consequence of his great merit, be promoted to the vacant post of Major at the Shih-poo Cantonment, in Chĕ-keang.—His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of War.

June 26th.—The Emperor has been petitioned to order the dismissal of a certain gaol official for carelessness in guarding the prisoners under his charge, and suffering one of them to escape. This official, who is named Tseaou Ting-jen, is also a clerk in the office of the District Magistrate of Ling-show in Chili. His Majesty commands that he be deposed from office, and brought to trial. He is to be brought before Le Hung-chang and confronted with the prisoners, and to be strictly examined as to whether he has been guilty or not of conniving at the escape of the aforesaid prisoner in consequence of bribery; and the case is to be reported in order that, if guilty, he may be punished according to law. The Governor of the gaol, Lew Kang-nĕen, who is Che-hĕen of the District of Ling-show, although he excuses himself from blame in this matter, on the plea that when the escape took place he was absent from his post on public business, yet in reality has shown his inability to guard against such a disaster. His Majesty therefore commands that he be handed over to the proper Board of examination, and that a period be allowed him within which he must make every exertion to arrest the escaped criminal Kwŏ Ching-lin and bring him to justice. If at the expiration of the interval allowed this arrest is not made, then the aforesaid Magistrate must be deposed and rigorously punished. Respect this.

* This officer previously petitioned for permission to present these trees as an offering to His Majesty. (See Gazette for June 3rd).

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(2) Governor-General Wăn-Pin 文彬 of the grain transport service, petitions on behalf of a dutiful son, who cut off a piece of each arm to cure his parents' diseases. An honorary member of one of the Literary Departments of the Han-lin College reports that Fan Joo-khe, an officer of the second division of the ninth Degree, belonging to the District of Shan-yang in the province of Keang-soo, is sincere in the discharge of his domestic duties, and is by nature intrinsically dutiful. His mother by adoption became on one occasion grievously ill, and deriving no benefit from medical advice, this officer, being at that time just nine years of age, after praying to the Gods in deep anxiety, of his own accord cut a piece of his flesh out of his left arm, and gave it to his adopted mother in her medicine, whereupon she instantly recovered. After this his own mother taking ill, he cut a piece of flesh from his right arm, and administered it to her, whereupon she also completely recovered. His fame for filial piety has spread abroad, and the petitioner on examining into the report finds that it is perfectly true, and that on the right and left arms of this filial son, are marks an inch in diameter. According to law, if any one cuts a piece of flesh from his arm to the injury of his life, no distinction shall be conferred upon him; but, on the contrary, he shall be liable to punishment. Also, all such honours as those now sought must receive the sanction of the Emperor. The petitioner therefore prays that a mark of distinction may be conferred in the present case, as, although the act was an ignorant display of filial piety, yet it was his sincere desire to save his parents which urged this son to commit it.—His Majesty consents.

(3) The same official presents a supplementary petition with regard to a lady who, after her husband's death in Shen-se, removed to Tsing-keang, taking his remains in a coffin along with her. During the Spring of the 10th year of the Emperor Hëen-fung's reign, that place was attacked by rebels, and she fled with her two daughters to a village in the neighbourhood. Hearing a report, however, that these insurgents intended pillaging the village, and it being impossible for her to fly from it in consequence of the tender age of her daughters, she drowned herself along with them. The petitioner prays the Emperor to grant them a Triumphal Arch, according to law.—His Majesty consents.

June 27th.—Le Han-chang (李瀚章) petitions that a Captain of the Left Cantonment in Hoo-pĕh may be granted leave of absence in consequence of the illness of his mother. His Majesty consents.

June 28th.—To-morrow the Emperor will pass through the Nuy-yew, Lung-tsung, and Se-hwa gates, and entering through the Se-yuen and Tih-chang gates, will take refreshment at the Han-yuen temple, transact business, and summon a Council (召見大臣). After this, His Majesty will pass out of the Tih-chang and Chuy-hwa gates, to the Woo-ching temple, will rest there a short time; and will then proceed to the Taze-kwang pavilion, to hold an audience (覲見). His Majesty will then return to the palace by the same route. Let all be arranged at 5 o'clock a.m. (初卯).

(2) Ying yuen (英元) petitions on behalf of Ma King-ah, formerly a Superintendent of Embankments in the province of Shantung. In the 9th year of the present reign, this official's term of office expiring, he retired from his appointment. In the 8th month of the 10th year, his successor, King Fung-woo, came to the plaintiff's lodging and formed his acquaintance. He stated that he was short of funds, and had employed another person to borrow money for him at a pawnshop; he also asked the plaintiff to go security for him. The plaintiff consenting, went to the shop with him and procured the sum of 400 taels on loan, to be paid back in the first month of the 11th year of the present reign. This sum was paid back in the second month of that year, and he borrowed a further sum of 1,200 taels, for the repayment of which the plaintiff again went security. In the 12th month, King Fung-woo wanted to borrow a further sum, but the pawnbroker refused, and he then borrowed 1,300 taels from plaintiff's brother, and gave a receipt for that sum. After this, King Fung-woo, through enmity, accused the plaintiff before the Deputy Governor of the province, of having applied certain public funds to his own private use, which he had obtained for King Fung-woo himself from the Revenue Commissioner; and the latter demanded that this sum should be now handed over to him. The Deputy Governor, being imposed upon in the matter, forwarded a petition to Peking, and the Emperor deposed the plaintiff from his rank and honours. The petitioner now

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prays the Emperor to take the case into reconsideration, and His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

June 29th.—Tun Yuh-ying (岑毓英), Deputy Governor of Yun-nan, petitions with regard to an appointed Prefect who continues to absent himself from his post, and prays the Emperor to appoint another in his place, in order to assert the importance of the performance of official duties. Ta-le-foo is an extensive district, and both Chinese and others inhabit that place. During the previous days of peace, this was a laborious post for an official to fill; and now that peace has been restored after the late disturbances, an energetic officer is still more required, to rule the entire district efficiently and to establish peace on a firm basis. The Official Board some time ago appointed a Prefect to take charge of this important post, and the Emperor confirmed the appointment; but for the space of three years that officer has not appeared to take upon him the duties of his new appointment. The petitioner therefore prays the Emperor to appoint another Prefect in his place, and His Majesty consents.

June 30th.—The keeper of the King-yun Gate of the Palace reports that he has caught a thief named Le Tseih stealing wood, and has handed him over to the Board of Punishments.

(2) Le Tsung-he presents a supplementary petition, recommending an expectant Taou-tae of Keang-soo province for the appointment of acting Taou-tae at Hwae-gan-foo and Yang-chow-foo, the present occupant of that post having been appointed acting Governor-General in the grain transport service.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

July 1st.—Yung-yoh 榮祿 and others present a supplementary petition with regard to the repairing of the stone bridge within the Tung-kow-taze gate. This is the bridge across which the Dragon Shrine with the supplicatory tablets is always carried at the seasons for sacrificing at the Imperial Mausolea.—His Majesty defers reply.

(2) Le Tsung-he presents a supplementary petition. The General in charge of Tae-yuen in Shan-se, and holding the rank of General-in-chief, some short time ago prayed for an audience, which request the Emperor granted. His father however having since died, the petitioner prays the Emperor to excuse the General from appearing at Court until the usual period of mourning has expired.—His Majesty acknowledges receipt of the petition.

July 2nd.—To-morrow the Emperor will proceed to the Fung-seen Temple to worship; afterwards He will proceed to the Show-hwang Temple for the same purpose; after which, he will return to the Palace along the route by which he set out. Let all arrangements be made by 5 o'clock a.m.

(2) An edict appoints Tsae-e to be an officer of the Imperial presence; and He-la-poo, Kih-hing-ah, and Tsae-tsing, to be officers in the Imperial Guards.

(3) The Governor-General of Shen-se and Kan-suh, together with the Deputy Governor of Shen-se, petition in reference to the Examinations for the second Degree now approaching. In the eighth year of the present reign, 36 appointments to the Literary Degree remained vacant in the province of Kan-suh, and in the ninth year 24 appointments remained unfilled. The petitioners therefore pray the Emperor to issue orders for the gradual filling up of these vacancies, as an incitement to learning.—His Majesty orders the Board of Rites and Ceremonies to consult and report.

July 3rd.—An Edict. Last year the entire Department of Ching-tih-foo in the province of Chili failed to forward the usual grain tax. The acting Prefect of Ping-tsouen has also failed in this respect. Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) is ordered to inquire into the cause of these deficiencies. In the first case he is to give orders that the grain be immediately purchased and forwarded to the Imperial Granaries. In the second case the Emperor requires to know the reason why His previous orders have not been carried out, and again commands Le Hung-chang to allow the Prefect a certain time for the payment of the tribute due from his district; and, if the grain is not forwarded within that period, the Prefect must be deposed. Respect this.

(2) Tsae-tseen Tsae-tsan and King-ling petition on behalf of two officials who ask leave to erect certain works at their own expense. The law exacts that all who approach the divine roads (神路) leading to the Imperial Mausolea, must dismount from their horses or carts and proceed on foot, in order to manifest respect. Both overseers and workmen must obey this rule, and the officers and soldiers on guard must prevent its infringement. All carts and horses approaching the main road should pass under the bridge. These regulations are most strictly binding upon all. The period for extensively repairing the Mausolea is now at hand, and a multitude of

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workmen will be assembled on the spot. Carts and camels will form an unbroken line, so that not only will it be difficult for the guard to control them, but it will be also difficult for overseers and workmen to perform their several duties. The petitioners have therefore issued orders to each overseer to give strict injunctions to the guard to use the utmost rigour in enforcing the law, and to consult together carefully and find out if possible some plan to prevent the trespass mentioned. In consequence of these orders a Secretary of the Board of Works, and an assistant Secretary of the Palace Board, propose to erect barriers on each side of the divine roads (神路) leading to the Tombs of the Emperors Shun-che (A. D. 1644), Kang-he, and Keen-lung; and this they propose to do entirely at their own expense, as the Emperor's funds are low at present.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

July 5th to 8th.—Woo-ko-tuh (吳可讀) petitions with regard to a General-in-chief who killed 200 persons in enforcing the payment of taxes, and reported this as a victory gained over rebels. The petitioner gives ten reasons why this officer should be put to death, and four reasons why there should be no delay in inflicting capital punishment upon him. When slaughtering the people, he drowned the cries of women and children in death; the blood and flesh of the aged were scattered about. Heaven and earth were struck with terror, gods and demons drew in their breath and wept in silence, winds and clouds changed their colour, the sun and moon gave no light, and Heaven (the Emperor) being far away could hear nothing of the matter. Hades was also afar off and could not be informed of the dreadful deed!

July 8th.—An Edict.—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions on behalf of a deceased General-in-chief who formerly distinguished himself in action against the rebels.—His Majesty orders that a title of distinction be conferred upon the deceased.

(2) Kin-shun (金順) reports that he has received and burnt the wooden seal of the General-in-chief of Woo-loo-muh-tse, who has been deposed from office, and whose post the Emperor ordered the petitioner to take.

(3) Tso Tsung-tang (左宗棠) petitions against a Brigadier who appropriated to his own use more than 400 or 500 measures of soldiers' rations. The petitioner prays that this officer may be deposed, and a limit of time assigned in which he must pay back the stolen grain.—His Majesty grants the petition.

(4) Kin-shun petitions that the bureau opened for receiving taxes in Kan-chow-foo may now be closed, as it is not needed, owing to the poverty of the people.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

July 9th.—Le Hung-chang petitions that a Che-hëen may be removed to another post, as his father-in-law is Prefect in the same District, which is contrary to law.—His Majesty refers the case to the Official Board.

July 10th.—The Palace Board petitions with regard to ladies leaving the Palace.

(2) An Edict.—Yang Chang-seun (楊昌濬) petitions in reference to a deposed writer in a Government Office, who is said to have caused his own death to be reported, and then, having changed his name, procured an outside post of the same kind, and embezzled money to the amount of more than 10,000 Taels.—His Majesty orders that the case be carefully examined into in order to ascertain whether the accusation be true or not.

(3) Ying-yuen (英元) petitions with regard to the Prefect of Taun-hwa, who has been guilty of extorting money from the people.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(4) Le Hō-neen (李鶴年) petitions with regard to a Prefect in Tae-wan (Formosa) who was also a Salt Commissioner. This Official was deficient in his accounts rendered some time ago, and was ordered to pay the deficiency within a limited period. He has now paid up the sum of Taels 1,213 and 1 mace, and the petitioner prays the Emperor to forgive him, and to allow him to remain in office.—His Majesty replies that the case is laid before the proper Board.

July 11th.—An Edict.—Le Tsung-he (李宗羲) petitions on behalf of a Provincial Treasurer, and also a District Magistrate, both deceased, and prays the Emperor to confer posthumous honours upon them, in consequence of their faithfulness in the discharge of their duties. The former died in defence of Nanking in the 3rd year of the reign of the Emperor Heen-fung; and the latter lost his life at the same time in an engagement with the Ro-

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bels in the District of Shang-yuen.—His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) Yang Chang-seun, (楊昌濬), the Deputy Governor of Chè-kcang, petitions with regard to the inspection of a certain sea barrier, with a view to avoid unnecessary expenditure in going beyond the original estimate for repairs.—His Majesty commands that the overseers be ordered to use diligence, regardless of their own ease, in carrying on the works, but declines to comply with the prayer of the petition to appoint a high official as superintendant.

July 12th.—Edict.—Hu Jui-lan 胡瑞瀾 is appointed Literary Examiner of Che-kiang Province. His appointment as Vice-President of Board of War is filled by Yin Choo-yung 殷兆鏞, and as Vice President of Board of Civil Office by Pwan Tsu-yin 潘祖蔭.

(2) Edict.—Ying-kwei 英奎, Criminal Judge of Shensi Province is recalled [in disgrace] and Yü K'uan 裕寬 takes his place.

(3, 4 & 5.) Edicts appointing special high Commissions to hear appeal cases, and examining Boards.

6. Edict.—On the complaint of Tai-ts'ien and others that the Treasury of Chihli Province is very low, and cannot pay a sum of 5,000 Taels due for Imperial uses, it is ordered that certain (named) districts in arrears with their ground tax for the summer quarter, be pressed, and others whose spring taxes are still unpaid must be sharply looked into lest the officers in charge should be converting the revenue to their own uses.

(1) Memorial.—Wang Wên-Shao 王文韶, Governor of Hu-nan, presents a memorial to the Throne on his knees, on the subject of those who are the recipients of hereditary honours, and consequent State support, in recognition of great military services by their parents or ancestors. The memorialist, in reply to the reference to him of this question by the Board under Imperial Rescript, submits the following scheme, to take effect from Jan. 1872. That a distinction be made between those under and those above 16 years of age;—that the amount of relief to those above 16 afforded in any year be made proportional to the resources of the Treasury, of each Province for each year, in combination with the number of recipients in that Province;—that those above 16 should be called on to make some return by undertaking petty offices to start with, thus gaining experience;—that those under 16 should be supported on the old scale. To illustrate how it would work, he states that in Hunan there are 360 odd State-supported men. He proposes that, say, 400 should be reckoned the complement of the Province. The sum available for division would be divided into 400 equal shares, and applicants would be placed on the list for a full share in the order of their application. When the time came that those entitled should exceed the complement, these, the 401st and so on, should take only half-shares, and the sum thus distributed is to be specially reported to the Board year by year, and a fund set apart to meet it. The Provincial Treasurer makes similar recommendations. The Governor-General of Hu-kwang, Li-han-chang, 李瀚章 concurs, and joins his name to this memorial.—Rescript: Let the Board of War report on this.

(2) Memorial by the same, recommending an officer to the post of Magistrate of the Provincial capital 長沙.

July 14th.—The offices rendered vacant by yesterday's Gazette are here filled up.

The Governors-General of the Two Kiang and of Hu-kuang unite in a memorial on the Fleet on the River Yangtze. They quote a communication from the Board of War by which it appears that *Péng Yü-lin

* [*Note.*—Péng is of a gentleman's family in Honan, and intended to enter a literary career. With this view he attended and passed successfully the sew-tsai (B. A. degree) examinations. On the rise of the Taipings his genius showed its true bent, and under the patronage of Tsêng Kwo-fan he was placed in command of the Yangtsze Fleet. Here his vigilance, powers of organization, and his courage raised him to the highest point as a hero. His purity from corruption and his contempt for those who were at all so tainted, and his fearless exposure in memorials to the Throne of whatever appeared to him base or even mistaken, have rendered him an awe to the official class. Even Tsêng Kwo-fan, his sometime patron, and Li Hung-chang have not escaped this man's indignant accusations. He has been pressed with every office up to the Governorship of a Province, and courted at Peking. He only accepted the membership of the Board of War on condition of having sick leave, and being relieved of active share in its duties. He announces as his reason for not taking office, that it would cripple him in denouncing wrong, and he has made too many enemies as it is.]

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彭玉麟 (who was in command of the Yangtsze squadron for twenty years, during the whole of the rebel period, and for his great services was made a member of the Board of War,) being on sick leave on his way to his native province Honan, had at the Imperial desire made suggestions on the management of the squadron, which suggestions were that a sum of Tls. 4,000 should be devoted towards keeping it in efficient condition. The two High Officers now state that in their view this sum is too little, that Pêng has in this mild suggestion been influenced by his own notorious disregard of money in his own case, and extreme care for the public finances. That officer for the whole of his time of command insisted on living on board a very small boat, with no luxurious appliances to meet the change from summer to winter. As the River is over 5,000 *li* in length, and as Pêng was noted for the large-minded, ungrudging way in which he dealt out rewards for acts of good service, the memorialists agree that Tls. 10,000 would be a proper sum to place in Pêng's hands, this to be raised by taking Tls. 2,000 from each of the 5 Riverine Provinces. The above is the result of some personal and much epistolary discussion between the writers.—Rescript: Referred to the Board.

(2) Li Tsung-hsi 李宗羲 Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and Li Han-chang 李瀚章, Governor-General of Hu-kuang, join in a memorial declaring the regulations for controlling the contraband traffic in salt, &c., indulged in by literary and military candidates on their way to the examinations.—Rescript: Approved.

(3) Pao Yüan-shên, Futai of Shansi, states that the present Magistrate 魏象乾 Wei Hsiang-kan of Lin-fên 臨汾, in Southern Shansi, though a good officer, is hardly fitted for that post, which requires great firmness and energy. Appeals are constant from that quarter. He proposes to make Hsü-Yung-shou, the holder of the Magistracy of the Provincial Capital 太源 T'ai-yüan, (who has kept down all robbers, &c.) and the above named Wei, to change places for a time.—Rescript: Approved.

July 15th.—Edict.—The thieves who stole a gauze screen from the Palace, and some of their resetters, having been caught, the Board of Punishments is ordered to report the proper mode of dealing with the case to the Throne, for approval. Those not yet in custody to be carefully searched for.

(1) The Censor Ying yuan 英元 (of Imperial blood) and others report a case of appeal. A man named Kêng Kuan-chung has come in person from Sü-chow in An-hwei, having been unable to gain redress at his native place, or at Nanking from the Governor-General. The petitioner Kêng states that his father, in May of the present year, seeing a drove of pigs, which were being driven along the road, trampling down his fields of wheat, remonstrated with the pigdrovers and in return got stabbed to death. The case was at once reported to the Authorities. Then the pigs furnished the clue to the murderers, thirty of them turning into their accustomed pig-enclosure, whose keeper recognized them and told their owners' names. It was then found out that the murderers had hid for the night at the house of a man named Ts'ao, outside the East gate. 20 pigs were found there with the same brand as the former 30. On Ts'ao being brought into Court, he, a disgraced Ti-pao, and a disbanded soldier, combined to bribe the captain of the city police, Wan Wei-chang; and the story then told was that these pigs were caught ravaging the fields by Wang's police, who gave them to Ts'ao to take care of. A discrepancy of three days in the dates they gave, destroyed their tale however. The petitioner got the Viceroy at Nanking to direct the Futai to investigate the matter personally. Wang on another charge had in the meantime been deprived of his office. Yet he, by the help of a degraded literate, who got up a sham petition from the gentry, prevailed on the City Magistrate to reinstate him, and got Ts'ao out of jail by similar means. These two then entered an action for false accusation against the petitioner, an accumulation of troubles which proved too much for him and induced him to come to Peking for redress.—Rescript: Note is taken of the case.

(2) Li Hö-nion, Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang, reports some changes in his disposition of military commandants.

(3) The Censor Ying-yüen 英元 and others report an appeal case. A woman named Ch'ên 陳 (née 于 Yü) states that 3 years ago her son had a slight dispute at a wine-shop with the shop-keeper Wang 王 on account of his selling short measure. Wang with his friends set on him

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bound him, and took him to the Magistrate on a charge of theft. The Magistrate dismissed the case on learning the truth. Wang next suborned some friends and bound her son and took him to a neighbouring Magistrate on another charge of theft;—this accusation also fell through. Wang, however, bribed the constable Ts'ai to keep young Ch'ên still in prison, and with another Yamên underling forced the mother to pay about $20 for her son's release, besides a present to Wang to soothe his injured feelings. Next day she was told her son had died in a shop, and indeed the body was brought to her in a coffin. In her attempts to get justice at the Magistracy she was frustrated by the constable Ts'ai; at Peking, whither she then went, she was recommended to withdraw her charge. Her husband is deranged in mind, so in bitter grief at the loss of her son she is obliged to appeal in person.—Rescript: Noted.

July 16th.—Edicts.—(1) and (2) Appoint Literary Examiners for Ssu-ch'uan and Hu-nan Provinces.

(3) During Wên-hsiang's leave, Ts'ûan-ch'ing 全慶 (a high Manchu) is directed to superintend the Imperial-Edict Office.

July 17th.—Edicts.—A-ch'ang-a is to hold temporary office in the Grand Secretariat, in addition to his vice-presidency of the Board of Rites.

(1) Ting-an 定安 General Commanding-in-Chief in Honan, applies for sick leave home.—Rescript: Refused. He may have 3 months leave and be ready then to take up his duties again.

(2) and (3) Memorials by Lin Chih-wang 林之望 and Sun I-yen 孫衣言, returning thanks for their appointments as Treasurer of Hupeh and Judge of An-hwei respectively.—Rescript: Noted.

July 18th.—Edict.—(1) The officers Yen and Pi report that the grain tribute from Shantung, Kiang-su, and Chekiang has been delivered in full at Tungchow. Let the Board put on record the quick despatch Pi has shown. Let the Board also report on the names Pi has mentioned in commendation.

(2) The Brigadier in command at Kiukiang has been changed.

(3) Yung-ch'ûan 榮全 general-in-chief in Ili recommends for a post in the Salt Gabelle service, an officer (of rank below a magistrate) for his having successfully conveyed the sum of Tls. 19,400 to the distant post of Ouliasutai, that sum being to be paid as indemnity to the Russians.—Rescript: Approved. The Board will take note.

(4) The General in command at Jehol reports official changes in several townships, rendered necessary by the suspension of the magistrate of Ch'ao-yang Hsien (on the borders of Shing-king) for his connivance with a kind of banditti, who are styled "warrant" banditti. The anarchical state of the place is shown by the fact that warrants are issued to almost any one willing to execute them, the district being too wide for the proper constable to do the work. They have consequently become, as it were, mere "letters of marque," licenses to rob at will, and were actually purchasable at the office of the above magistrate. The General states that he has peremptorily forbidden the loose use of warrants and of any official insignia which may be thus abused.—Rescript: Approved.

July 19th.—Edict.—Hu Chia-yü 胡家玉 (Vice-President of one of the Boards), suggests that employment be found for the very numerous persons who have successfully passed Examinations for Office. The Board of Civil Office must report on this.

(2) Li Hô-nien 李鶴年 Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang denounces the culpable negligence of Brigadier, Tao-t'ai, and Prefect of Wên-chow in Chekiang, for having failed to report to him important operations they had undertaken against robber bands. They had properly reported to the Governor of Chekiang, but had omitted, until specially asked, to let him who was chiefly responsible know of the matter. The Viceroy prays that proper punishment be awarded, so as to ensure respect for the recognized routine.—Rescript: The Board will inflict the due punishment.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang 左宗棠 Viceroy of Shan-se and Kan-suh, reports sundry military official changes.

(3) Li Ho-nien recommends an officer for a military post on the coast.

July 20th.—Edict.—Ying Han 英翰, Governor of An-hwei, has reported that Chang Shan-shuh, Magistrate of Ning-kuo Hsien took on himself to establish a Barrier for levying dues. He had applied to the Governor for permission, which was refused, and had begun collecting without awaiting the reply. He is not accused of appropriating the proceeds, but his conduct is subversive of all order. The Board will

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deal severely with him as a warning. A Prefect in An-huei who is reported as incompetent for his post, his really slippery and cunning character giving the lie to a prepossessing demeanour, is degraded to the rank of Sub-Magistrate. Let the Board note this.

(2) Li Tsung-hsi 李宗羲, Viceroy of the Two Kiang, and Ying Han 英翰 Governor of An-huei, report that the triennial provincial Examinations (degree of Ken-jin &c.) will take place at the appointed time this year.—Rescript: The Board will take note.

(3) The above Li Tsung-hsi requests that Wang Ta-ching 王大經, who has gone to Peking to return thanks at Court for his promotion to Judge of Hupeh Province from his late post of Grain Tribute Commissioner of An-huei, may be ordered on his way south to complete the Tribute collection for this year before taking up his new post.—Rescript: Will consider of it.

(4) From the same. The sometime Nanking High Treasurer Ch'i Heü-tsao 祁宿藻 and Magistrate of Shang-yüan (Nanking) Liu T'ung-ying 劉同纓, are, at the instance of the prominent inhabitants of the whole district, recommended as the objects of Imperial Favour in the bestowment of an honourable epitaph. These two perished at the taking of Nanking by the T'aip'ings. The former, by his unceasing sleepless activity and anxiety for 50 days during the investment of the city, brought on his death by blood spitting. He died in his gore. The latter, after constant labour during the siege, at last when the rebels had penetrated the city, headed in person a hand to hand fight in the streets. When he saw that the Imperialists were out-numbered, he placarded the walls with large characters "Do not wound my people! I will die for them." Then, in the still unconquered portion, he changed his clothes, putting on his Court Robes, and after bowing to the North jumped into a well and was drowned.—Rescript: Will consider of it.

July 21st.—Memorials (1) and (4) Tso Tsung-tang, Viceroy of Shensi and Kansuh, recommends promotion of military officers,—and

(2) of Taot'ai Fêng Pang-tung 馮邦棟 to a Judgeship. The latter had been, under Imperial sanction, delayed in retiring to perform his mother's obsequies, to finish an important commission which he has now brought to a close.—Approved.

(3) P'an Sai-chion, Literary Examiner of Shantung, reports the conclusion of the Examinations throughout the Province.—Rescript: Approved.

22nd.—Li Tsung-hsi, 李宗羲 Viceroy of the Two Kiang, and Chang Shu-shêng 張樹聲 Governor of Kiang-su, kneeling present a memorial recommending a further delay before re-establishing the Imperial Barriers at Nanking and Soochow, and looking up pray for the Sacred Glance thereon. The memorialists have been pressed by the Board of Revenue to consider whether these Barriers for collecting taxes 稅 to be devoted to supplying the Court with specific articles (as silk, embroidery, &c.) might not be again set in action. The late Viceroy, Ma Hsin-i, gave his opinion against it four years ago. They had been closed four years before that by H. E. Li Hung-chang, following the precedent set at Hoochow. It is conceded that the districts are quite free from the presence of war, and the Lekin Tax is altogether a temporary measure, and that the Imperial Barriers must in time be re-established. There is much difficulty in avoiding a too temporary and a too far-sighted course. The revenue from the above named Barriers was fixed at [? a misprint in the figures makes it only] 2,000 odd taels while the proceeds of the Lekin Offices at Nanking, Soochow, Sungkiang and Shanghai together amount to several times that sum, and provide, imperfectly to be sure, for the war expenses, as well as assisting towards the objects for which these Barriers would supply revenue. It is a settled fact that Barriers and Lekin Offices cannot exist together—the state of trade does not allow of it,—the Lekin cannot be dispensed with, and it would be absurd to substitute for it Barriers yielding so little. The attempt to open the latter had better not be made, for fear of consequences. The measure must be postponed until the war expenses are much lower. The Treasurer of Kiangsu and Nanking have come to the same conclusion.—Rescript: Approved.

(2) Ting Pao-chên 丁寶楨, Governor of Shantung, reports having detained till now the Provincial Judge, Chang, from paying his respects at Court on a promotion, and he has placed Taotai Hsié, of Tsi-nan, in Chang's post.—Rescript: Approved.

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(3)—Ch'ing-lin 慶林, the officer commissioned to collect the funds for the Emperor's Bridal, makes a report, giving the sums contributed from

Revenue of Kiangsu, Anhuei		
,,	and Kiangsi ...Tls.	250,000
,,	Salt Tax.....	250,000
,,	Chihli Province..	154,000
,,	Canton Maritime Customs	100,000
	Tls.	754,000

19,850 pieces of gauze, silk, and satin, &c. at about Tls. 25 each.
2,975 ,, do. do., ,, 29 ,,
3,795 ,, do. do., ,, 26 ,,

26,620 at a general average of Tls. 25 ea. add 2,400 (probable out-turn of first moiety from Chihli.) [The statement of how the first moiety of the Chihli contribution was disposed of, was transmitted in a former memorial.] Financial balance in hand Tls. 512.6.0.18. The detailed accounts are handed in.—Rescript: Let the Board note it, and take custody of the account books.

July 23rd. — Ying-yüan, 英元, Chief of the Censorate, reports an appeal case from Kai-p'ing Hsien (near Newchwang). The narrator, Li Kuei-lin, states that in 1865 the house where he, his father, grandmother and other relations were living, was attacked and plundered by armed robbers, Hu-t'ai and others,—loss about $70 dollars, and a cart. The case was reported to the Chihsien, who then arrested some of the accomplices. He was, however, bought over by Hu-t'ai by the present of the whole of the booty. The Hsien then instigated by money his deputy I-k'o-chin-pu to bring a false accusation against Li's father. I-k'o-chin-pu arrested the father, and before taking him away, by means of some friends, deluded a relation into giving about $360, upon which it was promised that the booty should be returned, and no soldiery brought to the village. Complaint was then made direct to the Governor of Shing-king. He merely relegated the case to the Tao-tai at Shanhai-kuan and he again to the Hai-ch'êng Magistrate. The father was arrested on I's accusation and kept in jail till now—for three years—by bribing the Yamên underlings. The father at last drew out a statement and sent the narrator with it to Peking, whither he has now come.—Rescript: Recorded.

(2) The Censorate reports another appeal case. Chiang and others from Yung-ming Hsien in Hunan, on the borders of Canton Province, possessed a thousand and more *mow* of land. A hereditary feud with the Chu family existed with reference to a disputed hill. In 1870 Chiang's crops were wasted by Chu's cattle. Complaint being made to the Hsien, the Chus became exasperated and attacked the Chiangs, killing three men. The Chus tried ineffectually to hide away the corpses, and afterwards, when this was reported to the authorities, ravaged the whole property,—money, beasts, implements, grain,—and grubbed up the tea-plants. On appeal to the Provincial Judge, the Hsien was made to take some steps, but he only arrested some minor offenders, and when this was exposed, he gave the complainants several hundred blows, forcing them at the same time to enter a "nolle prosequi,"—and released all the Chus.—Rescript: Recorded.

July 24th.—Yang Cháng-hsün, Governor of Chekiang, suggests that the Viceroy at Fuhchow be commissioned to investigate the case against three or four defalcating clerks in the Imperial Factory Yamên at Hangchow, all of whom were reported dead when the sentence of transportation to the military stations on the Amoor for ten years was received from Peking. These gentlemen had since been discovered to be alive, and to have again got positions as Yamên clerks under new names, and begun their old practices to the tune of Tls. 10,000. This suggestion is made because all the Yamên clerks are of a feather, and screen each other so that it is impossible to arrive at the truth in Hangchow itself.—Rescript: Under consideration.

(2) From the same. Reporting the death of the Literary Chancellor of the Province, Ting Shao-chow, 丁紹周, and that he according to usage has assumed charge of the seal of that office until a new officer is appointed by the Throne.—Rescript: Under Consideration.

July 25th.—Edicts 1 & 2 appointing High Commissions to try appeal cases which have been reported to the Throne.

(3) The Manchu Governor and Vice-Governor of Shêng-king report progress in the embellishment of the Imperial Tombs. 1,380 trees have been planted on the south aspect, at an outlay of Tls. 726.80. Next year 520 more will be placed on the E. and W.—Rescript: Approved.

(4) The same Officials report a routine promotion to the post of Manchu Hsie-ling of the Garrison at Kin-chow.—Rescript: Approved. The Board will note.

(5) Jui-lien, of the Imperial Blood, describes the repairs necessary to the buildings

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of the Imperial Tombs.—Rescript: Referred to the proper Yamên, with its accompanying specifications.

July 26th.—Edict. (A long series of appointments to posts of Rank of Prefect and under.)

(2) Liu K'uên 劉坤, Governor of Kiangsi Province proposes rewards to certain neighbouring Magistrates for capturing banditti who had infested Kan (贛) Hsien.—Rescript: Accorded. Let the Board take note.

(3) Li Wên-t'ien 李文田, Literary Chancellor of Kiangsi Province, reports the conclusion of the Examinations in that Province. He says Jao-chow stands highest in a literary point of view, Kiukiang and Lin-kiang next. Four others are mentioned favourably; and in these seven not one case occurred of infringement of examination regulations, except in Nan-k'ang, where a case of suspicion arose. In Yih-yang, Tê-hsing and Ch'ing-kiang the standard was low, and in each was a case or two of copying others' papers and of stealing the themes.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Liu K'uên, Governor of Kiangsi, prays that six persons with official rank and decorations may be deprived of the same for their better examination (by torture.) The case against them is for having extorted hush-money (Tls. 200 or 300 each) from one Liu Knei, who had succeeded, by counterfeiting an official Seal, in getting paid a sum of Tls. 7,000 odd out of the Commiseration Fund of the Provincial Treasury.—Rescript: Accorded. Let the Board take note.

July 27th.—(1) Mu T'u-shan, General in Kansu, reports the death of Yung-poo (a Bannerman), an expectant sub-Prefect, who died in military service, and begs that some mark of recognition of his merit be accorded in order to soothe the chill shade of the departed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office report on this.

(2) Yang Ch'ang-hsün, Governor of Che-kiang, reports the final completion of public works in connection with the sea-wall on Hangchow Bay.—Rescript: A list of commended officers may be sent in. Let there be no improper commendations!

July 28th.—Li Hung-chang reports the death, while under arms, and services of Lo Kuo-shung, a General in Shensi, and begs for posthumous title.—Rescript: Will consider of it.

(2) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, prays that Imperial notice may be taken of the spirit of a temple in Chang-chih Hsien, who has done sundry good things in the way of granting rain, &c.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites report on this.

July 29th.—Edict: A member of the Han-lin College has prayed that a posthumous title be granted to the Prefect Yih Yung-chih, who died defending Tê-an-fu in Hu-peh against the Taipings. Let the Board report on this.—Further:—On a representation from the Censorate, it is forbidden for officers resident in Peking to apply for posthumous titles on behalf of their deceased fellow-townsmen. The correct method—viz: the principal inhabitants of the district petitioning through the Viceroy and Governor of the Province, must be followed, to ensure reliability.

(2) On the recommendation of the Censorate a posthumous title is conferred on Kao Yên-chih, who died in 1850, bravely fighting the rebels, in his Magistracy, Lung-an Hsien in Kuangsi.

(3) Na-jên 訥仁 is commissioned to report on the condition of the Eastern Imperial Tombs.

(4) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shensi, sends a list, which he states has been carefully revised by the Viceroy Tso Tsung-t'ang and himself, of officers who have distinguished themselves in the pacification of the Province.—Rescript: Let the Board inspect and report.

(5) From the same, recommending Ch'êng Ting-k'ang, acting Taotai of the Yen-yu-sui circuit, for promotion to grade of Provincial Judge, and Liu San-yüan, a Lieut.-General, recommended for 1st grade of 2nd Button for himself and two succeeding generations.—Rescript: Seen.

(6) Liu K'uen, Governor of Kiangsi, reports the death and services of the Brigadier at Kiukiang, and prays for the nomination of a successor.—Rescript: Will consider of it.

July 30th.—Edict.—Pao Yüan-shên (Governor of Shansi) is directed to report on the late Prefect of Ping-yang-fu, name Ho Wei-ch'ih, who died in 1854 fighting the rebels, and who is named by the Censorate for an honorary epitaph.

(2) The Board of Punishments is directed to report the sentences which should be pronounced against those rebels who have been taken alive (? in Shansi).

(3) Shan Mou-chien (a Vice-President) is allowed four months extension of sick leave. He need not resign.

(4) Jui-lin, Viceroy of the Two Kwang, and Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Canton Province, recommend the transfer of the Prefect of Weichow to the same post at Ch'ao-chow (Swatow), which has recently been rendered vacant by the demise of

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Chow Yü-kwei. The nominee's services are recounted—he has been a Censor; his name is Liu Kwei-nien.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office report.

(5) Chang T'ing-yo and Artashta (Generals) report that the inhabitants of Urga contributed last year 10,000 catties of wheat-flour for the support of the army there. They will not accept payment nor do they desire an honourable mention. The mode in which this flour was distributed is described.—Rescript: Approved.

(6) General Yü reminds the Throne that for the last five years it has been necessary to depute an officer as a travelling Commissary Tithe Collector and Justice of the Peace in the disturbed parts of Kansu, about Si-ning. Yü-t'ung, a writer in the General's office, conducted this service. As the district is now at peace, the corn tax is abolished, and the people are left for justice to their usual Magistrates, who have returned.—Rescript: Approved.

July 31st.—Edict.—A Censor Têng Ching-lin 鄧慶麟 has memorialized on the accumulation of undecided criminal cases in Shêng-king and Kirin. His suggestion is that, as this arises from the want of diligence on the part of the Magistracy, that body should be ordered to clear off the calendar at once. It is indeed the duty of the officials to keep pace with their judicial work, but to proceed as the Censor proposes, and hurry off the cases, would simply be to crowd the jails with at least several thousand prisoners. We direct the Manchu military Governor of Shêng-king,—a Vice-President of Board of Punishments,—the Prefect of Mukden, and the Manchu military Governor of Kirin to depute capable officers to proceed to each city in turn and assist the local Magistracy in clearing off the arrears of years. These officers will send a register and detailed report of the cases to the High Provincial Authorities, and decide them all within a given period,—all errors in the record, delay over the set period, receiving of bribes, and weak indulgence towards the guilty to be at once reported to the Throne, for severe punishment. Further, let the ten rules proposed to the Throne by the former Viceroy of Chihli, Tsêng Kuo-fan, for the sifting of prisoners undergoing sentence, be observed. The punctual administration of justice is no more than a Magistrate's duty, recommendations for Our favour on that score would be too numerous to deal with. The expenses of the deputed officers will be but slight, and must be met by each Province according to the precedents that are sure to exist for such a case. This accumulated pressure of cases will have been in some instances the result of culpable dilatoriness, and call for punishment. How can all expect to be exonerated? The suggestion of the Censor is unworthy of consideration. Respect this!

(2) Contains the recital of the commended services of the officers who assisted in the quick despatch of the Grain Tribute from Kiangsu, Chekiang and Shantung, [See Edict in Gazette of 18th July.]—Rescript: Recorded.

(3) Contains an account of how the thieves were caught who stole a copper-wire-gauze screen from the Palace. [See Edict of the 15th.] One of the thieves tried to slip past a gate-house of the Imperial City about 2 p.m. with the screen rolled up in a bundle, and he confessed when examined.—Rescript: Recorded.

(4) Tso Tsung-T'ang, Viceroy of Shensi and Kan-su, reports that General Yang Chan-ao has recovered from his illness and has proceeded towards his head-quarters.—Rescript: Noted.

Aug. 1st.—Edict.—The result of deliberations by the Grand Council, the Six Boards, the Nine Ministers, upon a Memorial relating to the condition of the Grand Canal and Yellow River submitted to the Throne by Ch'iao Sung-nien (喬松年) Superintendant of Yellow River, Wên-ping (文彬), Ting Pao-chen 丁寶楨 Governor of Shantung, and the Censor Yu Po-ch'uan 游百川, having been referred by Us to Li Hung-chang, that officer has memorialized as follows:—Since the overflow "of the Yellow River "at T'ung-wa-hsiang, the old bed has "filled up, and during the lapse of years "has become quite dry and exposed. "There is no means at hand for re-"habilitating it, and it would be impossible "to turn the waters to their old course "past Hsü-chow and Huai-an. The labour "or futilizing the Yellow River to fill the "Grand Canal, and confining its waters "by Dykes, is not at our disposal, and "the River Wei is likewise out of the "question."

This memorial has gone to the root of the matter. Since it is impossible to direct the Yellow River southwards again with any benefit to the Grand Canal, and there is no other plan likely to be of permanent value, we direct the Board of Revenue to review the whole circumstances, and institute a policy based on Li Hung-chang's

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suggestions, viz:—that the Grain Tribute should continue to be forwarded by sea, that the several Viceroys and Governors should forward such of the Tribute as is in kind to Shanghai, there to be shipped for Tientsin, and that such Tribute as has, for economy in transit expenses, been commuted into a money payment, shall, as heretofore, await our disposal. Calamities from the Yellow River in Shantung must of course be guarded against, and We direct Governor Ting Pao-chên to strengthen to that end the present defences constructed by the inhabitants in Chang-ch'in and Li-ch'ing districts. The repairs conducted by the people of the country at the point of rupture at Hou-chia-lin, cannot be expected to last, and We direct the said Governor to set aside funds for repairing them after the autumn freshets—converting them into Government dykes of uniform height and width.

The inhabitants of these districts, with their fields so long submerged, are thoroughly worthy of commiseration. We direct the Governor to submit to Us a list for the relaxation or remission of Grain Tribute, and also a plan by which allowances may be made for the injurious effects of the change, on those engaged in the salt-carrying trade from the coast-depots inwards.

Ch'iao Sung-nien will take special care to place dykes to protect the low-lying ground so subject to inundation at Lan-yi and Tung-ming, below the point of rupture.

We direct the High authorities of Kiangsu, Honan and Shantung to report on Li Hung-chang's suggestion that increased grain Tribute should be raised from those who have occupied with their tillage the old river bed between Hsü-chow and Husi-an.

Further, the Board is directed to report on the suggestion that all canal transport should be given up, the grain being purchased and forwarded by sea only.—Respect this.

(2) Tê-ying and T'o K'o-jui, Generals in command in Tsi-tsi-hae, report an addition they have been compelled to make to the sentence of a man of Imperial Blood named An-ch'ung, for having effected his escape from confinement. His original sentence was—for being implicated in a poisoning case—life-long imprisonment in the Amoor district. He had no accomplices in the escape, and committed no crime while at large. He says he attempted his escape because he wanted to see his mother very much, and did not like his present quarters. He is evidently an irredeemable character for thinking of such things, instead of bending his mind to reform. To strike terror into the other convicts, it is requested that he be sentenced to 40 blows and to bear a chain for life. Another runaway convict has been caught, one of the Khorlo (?) tribe of Mongols. His case when investigated by the judge will be reported to the Colonial Office and to the Throne.—Rescript: Request granted. Let the Board take note.

(3) From the same. Another convict of Imperial blood, Têpao, is under sentence, first, for losing a valuable town to the rebels—punishment, simple banishment to this spot, to regain his honour in war; and second, an increase to compulsory military service upon the frontier for misusing his official position as a party to a lawsuit. He is recommended to the Imperial clemency, inasmuch as he has undergone ten years of punishment, and his whole family are in penury for want of his support. The most pathetic point is that his mother died a year or two ago at the age of 90, and the family is obliged to leave her in her coffin unburied, being unable to complete the funeral rites unless T'êpao is allowed to return to his banner and earn a subsistence.—Rescript: Allowed to return to his Banner. Let the Yamên take note.

August 2nd.—The Viceroy and Governor of Fukien and Che-kiang recommend an officer to the post of Prefect at Fu-ning-fu, vacant by death: name, Chang Mêng-Yüan.—Rescript: The Board of Civil Office will report.

(2) Chin Shun, (金順) General in the extreme west of Kansu, recommends for decoration a Taotai and a Sub-Prefect in Shanse Province for their energy in collecting arrears of funds set apart for the maintenance of the army under his command.—Rescript: Let the Board Report on this.

(3) Li Ho-nien, Viceroy of Fukien, and his colleague report an official change.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Chin Shun, in Kansu, reports an official change under him, and requests recognition of his nominee's merits.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of War take note.

Aug. 3rd.—Edict. (1) The Emperor has heard with great grief of the death of Chu Fêng-p'iao, lately of the Grand Secretariat. The title of Senior Guardian of the Heir apparent is graciously sent after him, and a *to'-to* pall is granted. His eldest son will, after the period of mourning, take the first vacancy in the grade superior to his present one in the Board of Works, and his

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grandson, now a Seu-ts'ai by purchase, has the degree of Chü-jêu conferred on him.

(2) During the last eighteen years of warfare in Yün-nan, the cities and country have been trampled on by rebels, and the people driven away and about in a most pitiable manner. Now the district is approaching to a state of quiet, though the fugitives alive and dead have not yet returned. It would cripple the energies of the people to press for all the accumulated arrears of Tribute; We therefore graciously remit all taxes previous to 1872, and direct the Viceroy and Governor to obtain for our information through the local magistracy a careful statement of the lands, cultivated and wild, as the case may be, and an estimate of the amount of tax which can be collected during this year. A Lekin was collected by the High Provincial authorities for the support of the army during the troubles, and this must have caused much hardship. We therefore direct that that kind of tax shall for ever be discontinued in this Province, and the High Provincial authorities shall have a proclamation for general information struck off on Yellow, that all may share the bounty, and malpractices of official underlings be prevented. Let the Board take note.

(3) Tu-hsing-ah having supported the recommendation of the Manchu governor of Shêng-king—that the acting sub-prefect of Ch'ang-t'u-t'ing, by name Chan Ting-yung, should be allowed to continue in his post instead of retiring into mourning for his parent's death, since he has gained all hearts by his energy in putting down brigandage—We allow this temporarily. This is not to be taken as a precedent in other Provinces. Let the Board take note.

(4) Hu Chia-yü 胡家玉 a Chief censor, in a long paper, puts forward a scheme for rendering promotion quicker and steadier among those who have taken the legitimate path to office, viz: passing the Doctor's degree (Tsin-shih). The gist of it is that the patronage of the Tsung-li Yamên should be restricted (it has been nominating 18 men every two years, while the Grand Council could only nominate 8 in three years under stricter requirements) as also that of the High Provincial authorities; and that the candidates should not be held qualified until they had passed the personal inspection of His Imperial Majesty satisfactorily at two ordinary and one special Audiences, in place of one ordinary Audience as now. It is complained that Doctors, who have a right to expect immediate appointment to a Taotai-ship or a Prefecture, are fain, under stress of years and poverty, either to relinquish official life, or to accept a Magistracy or even lower rank.—Rescript. Recorded.*

Aug. 4th.—Edicts.—(1, 2 and 3) appoint Literary Examiners, (principal and second) for Kiangsi, Chekiang and Hupeh.

(4) Chin Yü-ying 岑毓英 has recommended that for Madame Ho (maiden name Chao) a tablet should be erected commemorating her virtue. Her husband, who died bravely fighting the rebels at Ta-li-fu, has already received Imperial recognition. She, when she saw her husband die, drowned herself in the river. He prays for the usual memorial tablet, and besides a special shrine for her and her husband. We accord what he wishes. Let the Board take note. Respect this.

(5) Ying-yüan, 英元, a Chief Censor, records an appeal case. Chên-tu, of Shou-chow in An-hwei, states that others of the same family name banded together to commit robbery with violence on his father. The culprit was caught, and an attempt to bail him out frustrated. The others then made a combined attack with lethal weapons on the complainant's village, but the assailants by the help of the neighbours were beaten off, leaving one dead. This further enraged the ruffians, and they returned to the attack with more than a hundred armed followers and slew the narrator's brother, sister-in-law and two sisters and father, the latter deliberately when he was lying wounded. No justice could be had from the Prefect as his underlings were bribed, and the orders of the High Authorities failed to bring about a hearing. The case has been pending for several years. The murderers, encouraged by impunity, are threatening to put the appellant out of the way, and he in self-defence comes to Peking.—Rescript: Recorded.

(6) Liu Chang-yu 劉長佑 Governor of Kwangsi, reports that a Cantonese gentleman named Fông Yüan-nien, who purchased a B.A. degree, and, further, gained rank of Prefect by his contributions for the war, has passed satisfactorily through the usual year's probation in actual tenure of office which is required of persons who gain office in that manner. It is prayed that he may remain on the permanent staff in that Province. Rescript: Let the Board take note.

* This Memorial discloses a change in the mode of filling the higher ranks of office,—more weight being given to proved capacity and less to mere literary talent. The "nominees" are men who have distinguished themselves in actual service.

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(7) From the same, reports routine changes.—Rescript: Noted.

(8) From Wu T'ang 吳棠 Governor of Sszü-chuan. In accordance with the regulations of the Board of Civil Office, directing that all officers from the rank of Taotai downwards should be deemed of the "Expectant" rank and submit themselves to a year's constant observation at their Provincial Capital, at the end of which time the High Authorities should report on their several capabilities as fit for "arduous" "busy" or "light" duty as the case may be;—the Governor proceeds to give the characters of four—all favourably.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(9) From Ting Pao-chên, Governor of Shantung, similar memorial on one officer, character favorable.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

Aug. 5th.—Edict.—(1) The Censor Shun Huai, 沈淮, has denounced Yang Hung-tien, an Officer in the Board of Revenue, for using his office to obtain bribes and fabricate documents. Let Yang be degraded and handed over to the Board of Punishments, who will report to the Throne, and if there is any foundation for the accusation, he will be severely dealt with.

(2) Appoints a High Commission to hear an appeal in the Province of Che-kiang.

(3) Grants posthumous honours to a Taotai who, after distinguished service against the rebels in Hunan, Hupeh, Kwangsi, Shensi, Kansu, and Sszü-chuan, was at last slain in quelling an emeute among the braves in Kueichow Province.

(4) Ting Pao-Chên memorializes again on Judge Chang's retirement into mourning, [see Gazette of 22nd July.]—Rescript: He is allowed one hundred days mourning after reporting himself at Court.

(5) From the same. (An enclosure.) Reports an appointment he has made to the Naval Stations at Têng-Chow (Chefoo) and Yung-ch'ên and also at Pochow.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) From the same. (An enclosure.) Reports the death by suicide, while under arrest awaiting trial, of one Yang Yu-ch'üan. He was the defendant in a a suit for recovery of purchase money, which suit was complicated by the corrupt action of a petty official Hsü Wên-hsün. The custodian of Yang has evaded arrest by flight, but is being searched for. Meanwhile Hsü and the other parties and witnesses are being forwarded to the Provincial Capital. It is prayed that Hsü may be degraded from office for his better examination (*sic*: torture).—Rescript: Let Hsü be degraded and severely examined. Let the Board take note.

(7) From the same. (An Enclosure). Recommends that the Brigadier Liu be cashiered for incapacity, and that the Shou-pei (say, Captain) Chên be compelled to resign on account of old age.—Rescript: Accorded. Let the Board of War take note.

(8) From the same. (An Enclosure). Reports changes consequent on Chefoo and Yung-chêng being transferred from the Chinese to the Manchu division of the Forces.

August 6th.—Edict concerning posthumous honours to officers who fell in defending their posts in Yün-nan.

(2) from Ying Yüe and others of the Censorate, discloses a dreary tale of wrongs at Ting-Yüan Hsien in Anhuei, of the date of the Tai-Ping Rebellion. A wave from that great flood swept over this district, and left as a result a permanent disturbance of its peace and quiet. One large family (or clan) became purveyors for the Central Force at Nanking; and the consequent raids on neighbours, and murders, need not be told. The petitioners (and no wonder) failed to get redress from the local and high Provincial Authorities, and ascribe their failure as usual to bribery.—Rescript: Recorded.

(3) Li Hung-chang reports very favorably on the abilities of Taotai Wei Ch'êng-yüeh, after the year's probation. Rescript:—Let the Board of Civil Office take note. [See Gazette of 29 May 1872, page 53 of reprint.]

August 7th.—The Board of Civil Office presented for H. I. M.'s inspection a copy of the Autumn Quarter's issue of the Red Book.

(2) Edict.—In view of the extraordinary rainfall which has taken place continuously since the beginning of summer and its prolongation till now at the near approach of autumn, severe injury to cultivation may be feared. We therefore propose to supplicate the spirits for clear weather on the 10th August, and burn incense at the Ta-kao temple. On the same day let the Princes Tun, Kung, Shun, and Fow, attend respectively at certain other temples for the same purpose. Respect this.

(3) Contains a long list of punishments pronounced against those responsible for the serious emeute of the soldiery (demanding pay) in Kuei-chow Province, and decorations bestowed on those who quelled it.

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(4) (An enclosure.) Li Hung-chang recommends that no punishment be dealt out to Ching-fuh, the Taot'ai of Shau-hai-kuan. That gentleman had arrived at Tientsin from Kiangsi Province on the way to his post in the 8th moon of 1872. He then applied for extension of time to enable him to repair his ancestral tombs at T'ungchow, near Peking. He was ordered to report himself at his post while his request was under consideration, yet he failed to do so till nearly seven months after;—i.e. not quite a month over time. He pleaded the miriness of the ways in Shêng-king, and the floods and bad weather in the spring, for the extra delay.

The Board of Civil Office has been unable to find any precedent for granting extension of the time within which an officer must reach his post, on the ground of repairing tombs. Yet as the excuse pleaded for the extra delay is borne out by his arrival-vouchers along the line of route, the Imperial clemency is prayed.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note.

(5) From the same. Recommends an officer to the post of Superintendent of River Yung-ting. Rescript: Let the Board report on this.

(6) From the same. (An enclosure). Recommends the cashiering of a Lieutenant, for using Government forest-timber (on the range N.E. of Pao-ting-fu) which it was his duty to conserve, for the purpose of repairing a river dyke. Rescript: Let him be cashiered. Let the Board take note.

August 8th.—Ying-yüen and his colleagues of the Censorate, report an appeal case from I-ning-chow in Kiangsi (near the borders of Hupeh and Hunan). It is the result of an eight years long feud between villages of families named Chang (the present appellants) Tsao, Liu, Han, &c., for the right to cut forest timber on a certain hill. Murder, arson, and ravages by disbanded braves are incidents in the case. The hill was decided to belong to the Changs by a special deputy from the High Provincial authorities, but the local authorities have been bribed to ignore the decision. The appeal is supported by original documents. Rescript: Recorded.

(2) Ngên-lin 恩麟, Minister President at L'hassa, in Tibet, reports that, since the disgrace and recall of his colleague Tê-t'ai 德泰, he himself has diligently prosecuted his enquiries into malversations. With the aid of his late colleague, he had succeeded in discovering that Wang Lai-i, entrusted with the distribution of tea, ourd (or butter?) &c. in bounty at the Ho-lê-tan Lamasery in Further-Tibet, had embezzled to the extent of Tls. 2,991.578. It is now discovered that an expedition Wang reported himself as having conducted against insurgent Lamas at Kang-mu, and its attendant expenses viz: Tls. 6,938.800 are wholly fictitious. This is corroborated by an officer on the spot at Kang-mu, which is a long way from Ho-lê-tan Lamasery. The personal retainers of Wang have been examined, and they confess that once Wang gave them Tls. 800 to get up an idol procession, and one of them was sent into Further-Tibet with tea, opium, boots and "hô-tâ" (?) to the value of Tls. 700, to barter with the soldiers for their surplus rations. It is prayed that Wang be cashiered and severely dealt with.—Rescript: Let Wang Lai-i be at once degraded, and severely punished according to law. Let the Board take note.

August 9th.—Edict.—En-lin 恩麟 (Resident Minister of L'hassa) having requested the appointment of an officer to the post at K'oblun, Taifênlawangtochieh is appointed to act there. Let the Board take note.

Ying Han 英翰 Governor of Anhwei recommends promotion for some, and cashiering of other officers.

August 10th.—Edict (1).—Shao Hêng-yü 邵亨豫 Governor of Shensi has memorialized us that in the summer of 1863, when the city of Yao-chow was in great peril from an attack of Mahomedan rebels, a remarkable answer to prayer was vouchsafed by the Goddess Kuan-yin in turning away the calamity, and also in stopping an unseasonable fall of rain. The inhabitants are deeply and reverently grateful. We have ourselves written out a tablet, which Shao will in person reverently hang up in the said Goddess's temple at Yao-chow, in commemoration of her protection. Respect this.

(2) Wu Chao 吳潮 is appointed an acting Taotai in Honan.

[Here follows a long list of movements in the service.]

(3 & 4) Memorials from the Censorate, on which the Edict of July 29th is based, on recommendations by officers at Peking of posthumous titles on behalf of deceased fellow-townsmen in the Provinces.

(5) Also from the Censorate, recommends a posthumous title for Kao Yen-chi, who died defending Lung-an Hsien in Kuangsi. —Rescript: Recorded.

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August 11th.—Yung-yü 榮毓 and his colleague in charge of the Eastern Tombs report the damage caused by a tremendous storm on 6th July, which uprooted trees and did other mischief.—Rescript: Will consider the subject.

(2) From the same, reporting the changes caused by a death vacancy.

(3) Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin 鄧慶麟 memorialises. A rigid observance of established law, and a provisional departure from it, alternate with each other as guides of policy. Since the tide of war turned in our favour extraordinary powers have been taken for the purpose of pacifying the country. At present rebels taken alive are summarily executed on the spot. The doctrine of the Code, that a rebellious people must be put down by severe punishments, is one suited only for emergencies and not as a permanency. In 1869, the Censor Yüan Fang-ch'êng suggested that the old course of law should be followed in the quieted provinces, viz: that the decision of the Local Authorities be revised by the High Authorities, and this was approved by the Throne. Tsêng-kwo-fan, however, then Viceroy of Chihli, in fear lest the embers of rebellion might rekindle, prayed that the summary procedure might still be continued in his province and in Shantung and Honan, hoping to cope thus with the remnants of rebel bands and disbanded braves. This was manifestly a mere temporary expedient. Some years have elapsed since it was first put in force, and many are the cases of summary execution, and rebels and banditti of every sort have been gradually swept off. At that time it was natural that stringent measures should be taken, in view of the anxiety of men's minds; now, however, after the long peace, a change is demanded in favour of the sacredness of human life. The memorialist has read with reverence the Imperial Edict which directed "that the old course of "law should be reverted to when the "banditti had been finally defeated," and looking up beholds the benevolence of the Sacred Heart, which still remembered mercy in the midst of severity. The numerous Courts through which a capital case has to pass, with the final reference to the Throne, effectually provide for a thorough investigation, but the summary infliction of death even though the sufferers are really rebels or bandits, may often be pronounced in the absence of proof personal or material, on a simple accusation in the Courts of First Instance, without waiting for the chance that the evidence may be upset on a rehearing in a higher Court. In the memorialist's opinion this may be made an instrument for carrying out revenge. It behoves us to take double precaution, that the dead may not be embittered, while the living may take warning:—the Imperial Benevolence will be shown forth, and Heaven's peace be drawn down by foregoing punishment, even when due. The Imperial Will is prayed as to whether an immediate return to the old procedure may take place, or whether a modification may be introduced by which a capital case may be re-heard at the Provincial Capital.—Rescript: Recorded.

Aug. 12.—Edict. Censor Hsü T'ing-Kuei (許廷桂) prays that the Board of Revenue may be directed to choose high officers for a certain purpose. He points out that, on the return of the country to peace, it is proper that the taxation should revert to its old footing, and that all military expenditure be carefully examined, and for this purpose high officials should be selected to make an investigation. The memorial is aimed at a repression of abuses. We direct the High Officials to select several officers of standing and experience, who shall report to us on the Ground-tax, subsidy to other Provinces, Likin, and Grain Tribute (in kind and money) paid by each Province, that the people may be gradually relieved of what is illegal. Also, that careful and experienced officers be told off to scrutinise the military accounts, reporting against all irregularities, and all factitious arrangements for increasing the number of the receivers of pay, and denouncing all other faults without fear or favour. Respect this.

(2) Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin recommends a posthumous title to Ho Wei-Chih, a fellow-townsman of his, who died with his family at P'ing-yang Fu in Shansi.—Rescript: Recorded.

(3) From the same. [This is the Memorial quoted in the Edict of 31st July.]

Aug. 13th.—Edicts (1) and (2) appoint High Commissions for hearing two appeals to the Throne.

(3) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shansi, prays that the Magistrate of An-k'ang Hsien, K'ung Fan-chun 孔煩準, may be temporarily deprived of official rank for his better examination [*scil.* torture.] This necessity occurs in the investigation of an Appeal case to the Throne, (already reported.) Shao was named one of the High Commission to hear the case.

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Aug. 14th.—Mao Ch'ang-hai and Ta'a-hêng-ah are appointed to report on the repairs necessary at the Western Tombs.

Edicts (2) and (3) appoint Literary Examiners for Kiangnan and Shen-si.

(4) Shên Yit-chien 單懋謙 prays to be relieved of office on account of his many ailments. He has frequently had sick leave, but now gives up hope of speedy recovery.—Rescript: Recorded.

(5) Hsü Chên-wei, 許振緯 Literary Examiner of Shen-si and Kan-su, makes his report on the latter Province. He says Shensi was in a pitiable state indeed, but this is much worse. No examination has taken place for twelve years, the population is less than a tenth of its former numbers, the candidates are reduced from two or three hundred to a few dozen. The effects of the struggle still survive in hatred between the Chinese and Mohammedans, but he does not despair of the Book of Poetry having its due mollifying effect. The Mohammedans should have literary gentlemen to lead and guide them. A few such should be posted in Urumtsi and Barkoul, which are several thousand li away beyond the Shamo Desert.—Rescript: Noted.

Aug. 15th.—Edict (1) Ming-an 銘安 Lieutenant-Governor of Shêng-king, has memorialized for a high official to be appointed to hear a case involving capital punishment, between a widow Liu (née Li) and a dismissed official. Widow Liu accused the official Ch'i-shan (a Manchu military officer) of having caused her husband's death by unnecessary restraint. When Ming-an had nominated a judge to hear the case, Ch'i-shan remonstrated against the officer named, as likely to be partial. Tu Hsing-ah, Military-Governor of Sheng-king then deputed a judge, and when the widow heard who he was, she denounced *him* too as prejudiced. We therefore direct Kuang-hsiao 廣孝 to proceed there post-haste, hear and determine the case on its merits and report to us. Let Kuang-hsiao's personal staff accompany him.

(2) The post of Chief Vice-President of the Board of Works will be temporarily filled by Yin Chao-yung, during the absence of Liu Yu-ming, yesterday appointed Literary Examiner of Kiangnan.

(3) Ch'ing-lin 慶林 is continued in his post as Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Nanking.

(4) Ch'ing-lin (the above-named) reminds the Throne that on the completion of the Bridal Trousseau he recommended to the Throne for promotion to the 5th grade two officers in recognition of their exertions, and this was approved. The Board of Civil Office has since written to enquire what grade these gentlemen belonged to in the first instance; an important point, as advancement beyond two grades at a step was contrary to established rule. It appears that the officers in question were of the 8th grade, and that the recommendation was wrong. It is prayed that the proper correction may be made.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note.

(5) From Tu Hsing-ah. This was the occasion of the Edict of August 3rd, by which the sub-prefect of Ch'ang-tu-l'ing was allowed to perform official duties in his mourning robes. The officer in question, Chang Ting-yung, cannot be replaced, so zealous and capable has he proved himself.

August 16th.—Wang-po 王溥 reports having taken over the seals as Acting Judge of Shansi, on 11th July. Is overwhelmed at this mark of Imperial favour. —Rescript: Noted.

(2) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, reports the retirement into mourning of the Treasurer Li Ch'ing-ao, and the return of Judge Chiang, who will act in Li's place; the appointment of Taot'ai Wang-po to act as Judge, and consequent changes below that rank.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) Contains the thanks of Judge Chiang I-hsio 蔣疑學 for the post of Acting Treasurer of Shansi.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Censor Shen-chun, 沈淮, on the Shen-si department of the Censorate, reports that a Chu-shih in the Kwang-tung department of the Board of Revenue, named Yang Hung-tien, is living in the style of an officer of far higher rank, and that rumour has it that he has several myriads of taels got by bribery. Yang came to Peking, during the last Emperor's reign, a poor scholar. As immense sums pass through the Board's hands, this looks suspicious and deserves enquiry.—Rescript: Recorded.

Aug. 17.—Na-jên 訥仁, an Under-Secretary of the Grand Secretariat, reports himself on his return from inspecting the Western Tombs.

Pao Yüen-shên, Governor of Shansi, reports several official changes.—Rescript: Noted.

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(2) Tê-shou. 德壽 in handing over charge of the Imperial Factory at Soochow to the new Superintendent Yü-hsiu 毓秀, gives a statement of the balances in those accounts which are still open :— viz :—

Coronation account	Tls.	11,044
Current expenses account	,,	21,717
Wages account	,,	592
Current season's work account	,,	2,197
Ordinary account	,,	32,782
Trousseau account	,,	1,205
	Tls.	69,477
Received from Kiangsu Treasurer	,,	52,042
	Tls.	121,519
Estimate of cost and transport of the Vermilion, Grass-cloth, and Embroidery and other threads at current rates	Tls.	104,805

(3) Yü-hsiu reports having assumed charge (as above).

(4) From Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, reports that things will be in readiness for the Chü-jên examinations this year.—Rescript : Let the Board take note.

Aug. 18th.—Edict (1.) Li Hung-chang has addressed to us a memorial stating that the River Yung-ting has filled its channel, reporting for punishment the officials who were engaged on the works, and requesting the appropriate discipline on himself. He states that much rain fell for several weeks in succession this year, and the waters in river and lake rose to an unwonted height. The officers responsible worked day and night to avert danger by opening and shutting sluices and strengthening works. On the 4th and 5th July the rain came down in bucketsful and it became utterly impossible to do anything ; the river overflowed in several places. Li Hung-chang last year reported that he had caged the dragon, and it is therefore an inexcusable fault that, in so short a time afterwards, even allowing several weeks' rain, the river should have broken out. We direct that Chu-tsin, Wang Jên-pao (Magistrate of Ku-an, where the chief damage is) and Li Ch'ao-wei (Superintendent of the Yungting channel) be severally deprived of office, while directed to remain at their old posts, to try and redeem their reputation. The Board is directed to consider on the mode of dealing with Li Hung-chang himself.

(2) Li Hung-chang, on the application of the gentry, proposes a shrine, subsidiary to that dedicated to Sankolinsin, in honour of the then Viceroy of Chili, Ching Hung, who seconded the General's efforts in recovering the Province. We accord this.

(3) Appoints a High Commission to hear an appeal case.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, presents on his knees a Memorial, in obedience to the Imperial Will, on a permanent scheme based on the present condition of the Yellow River and Grand Canal, and, reverently looking up, prays for the Sacred Glance thereon. Your Minister is in receipt of a despatch from the Grand Council of date 27th February, by which he understands that the members of the Grand Council, the Six Boards and the Nine Ministers are called on by Imperial edict to consider suggestions by Ch'iao Sung-nien, Superintendent of the Yellow River, Wen-pin, Grain Transport Superintendent, Ting Pao-chên, Governor of Shantung, and also censor Yu Po-ch'uan, on this subject. At the sight of this instance of Imperial anxiety to attain to the truth, he is unspeakably affected by reverent awe. Your Minister has from his earliest years been a frequent traveller northwards and southwards ; and since he led the forces against the rebels, has had many occasions for visiting the Yellow River and Grand Canal, especially in forming a cordon round the insurgent troops. Though he has not made special study of rivers, yet his personal inspection, his great travels to and fro, his experience in affairs and in sifting suggestions placed before him, enable him slightly to form an opinion. On knowing the Imperial Desire, he despatched able and painstaking officers to the several points, to collect materials for an exhaustive report to his Sovereign.

Any scheme for managing a river must assuredly be based on the four considerations advanced by Prince Kung and his colleagues, viz : the lie of the land, the laws of water, the labour at disposal, and the amount of danger to be averted. Of these the most important is the power and direction of the water-pressure. The breach at T'ung-wa-hsiang is about ten *li* wide, and the newly excavated channel is more than thirty feet deep at the dry season. The bottom of the ancient channel is from twenty to thirty feet above the surface of the full river outside and below the breach, and the old channel must be scooped out 30 feet deeper than it is before the water can again be turned eastward. During Kien Lung's reign the cost to the Treasury was twenty millions and more of Taels. A Grand Secretary, Kung A-kuei, then memorialized the Throne that it

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would be impossible to find appliances to deepen the channel beyond the depth then accomplished, namely 16 feet; how would it be possible to deepen it now to 30 feet and more? That the orifice of ten li wide can be closed, is a figment of the imagination. The breaches made previously during the present dynasty have never exceeded three or four thousand feet in width, yet the repairs to these would constantly give way, never lasting for many years; how can we curb the water now to any purpose? The level of the old bed from Lan-i down to Hsü-chow and Huai-an is now between thirty and forty feet above that of the surrounding country, being increased by sand-dunes, and consolidated by lapse of time,—and it now forms the refuge of the inhabitants from floods, and is covered with villages and cultivated fields. To excavate that for a body of water thirty feet deep which would flow thirty feet above the land on either side would be to court inevitable danger, as anyone with eyes may see. Further, portions are affected by want of moisture during so many years, and during the excavation would be sure to escape notice; and these, when the upper waters were let in would give way, and make an outlet still worse to mend. Were the plan followed of filling the Grand Canal by the Yellow River water turned Northwards, still some portion of the water must necessarily go South to fill the channel at Tsing-kiang-p'u. Your Minister finds that, in Kia-hing's reign, the bed at the latter point had so silted up that the sluice-gates could not be opened for the grain tribute to pass, while the Yellow River was full in the Summer. The next reign this was the case throughout the year, and the experiment was tried of tapping the Yellow River at Yüan-pu, letting the water into the lakes as reservoirs. The beds of these lakes then got silted up also, and proved of no use for filling the Canal when it was low. The consequence was that frequent recommendations were made to adopt the sea route. The state of the River and Canal was so dangerous that no one could guarantee the state of things for a day. During the close of the Ming Dynasty, and the commencement of the present one, the clear stream of the River Huai was used to scour out the Yellow River channel, and it proved of value for a time; but subsequently two rivers in one bed appeared likely to bring Heaven, Earth and Man to extremity. Now even if the current were turned to its old course it would not benefit the Canal much, and even if there were any benefit to the Canal, it would be fortunate if no disadvantage accrued otherwise. Your Minister has reverently perused the Edict of Tao-kuang, 5th day of 12th moon of 8th year, in which the words occur: "As to the region where the Yellow River is embanked, the River has for years been filling up its bed; a token, as experience shows, that a time of unmitigated gloom is close upon us." The Sacred Anxiety had grasped the full meaning of it thus early. And if the River were bent to its old course by Hsü-chow and Huai-an, no real benefit would accrue to the transport of the grain Tribute either.

On this proposal by Chiao Sung-nien, of feeding the Canal by the Yellow River, Your Minister would point out that the silting at Tsing Kiang-p'u has arisen from that very plan. In the 23rd year of Kien-lung, the River Superintendent Po stated: "To lead the waters of the Yellow River, "laden with mud and sand, into the "Canal, would only hasten the filling-up of "the latter, and is a plan to be adopted "only at the very last extremity." In the 15th year of Kia-k'ing the River Superintendent Ch'ên wrote: "The forwarding "of the Grain Tribute has been facilitated "to the detriment of the Canal. It "would be better temporarily to dredge "the Canal and cross the River by ferry, "than again to turn the Yellow River into "the Canal." In Taokuang, 5th year, at the great flooding of the lakes, the Nan-king Viceroy Sun and others suggested this plan of using the Yellow River, and after a few seasons the silting became evident in various ways * * *,—a proof of its unsatisfactory character. The Sacred Instructions which successive Emperors have deigned to bestow are clear and irrefragable,—past events have come back as a wheel, and those Instructions remain eternally pertinent. The section of the Canal at Chang-ch'iu is only a few *chang* broad, and the excavated earth on each bank is mountain-high;—if the muddy water of the Yellow River were let in here, and curbed and directed by sluices and levees, the water would rise high, and the silting take place at an increased rate, so that daily manual labour could not keep pace with the daily subsidence. The deposit when dredged out and placed on the accumulations of years on each bank would be carried down again by wind and rain to raise the bed, and the sluice gates would be rendered useless. It it impossible to utilise the Yellow River. The Ministers Wan, and Liu, of the Ming Dynasty, did much harm by this very plan. It is as if you inoculated a new

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disease instead of giving medicine, or put down a riot with a licentious soldiery. The subsequent outbursts in the next reign, at T'ung Wa-hsiang and King Lung-k'au, were simply the result of the above. The land at Lin-tsing lies lower than Chang-ch'iu by several dozen feet, and Your Minister cannot believe that a permanent preventive of evil can ever be found for that place. At Ho Chia-ch'iao the works necessary for stopping the gap and raising a levee are still less easy. There was here no breach of bank, but a huge accumulation of debris overtopping bank and all. There is no solid ground to begin upon, no available material to resist the action of the stream, but merely moving sand, which passes through the hand and slips from under the foot. Work done with it would only serve to provoke the wrath of the torrent, would be swept away to make obstruction lower down, and would be very expensive,—of no permanent use, but a source of danger. A leak would open into the Canal at another place, the Chang-ch'iu portion get no benefit,—and the whole labour be thrown away.

The scheme of Sub-Prefect Chiang Tso-chin for diverting the Wei into the Canal, is prompted by the desire of supplying the Canal with clear water north of Chang-ch'iu; but he forgets that, to do that, an old choked-up bed of the Yellow River must be crossed south of Yüan-tsim-chi, a work of great labour, and also that if the River Husi further south was unable to overmaster the turbidity of the Yellow River, much less could the gentler shallower Wei. His idea was suggested by the successful turning of the T'ai-shan westerly waters into the Canal [accomplished in 1375 by Sung-li, Emperor of the Ming Dynasty]; but he omits to consider that those streams numbered 180, draining 16 magistracies, and fed by abundant springs, altogether amply sufficing for the purposes of the Canal;—while the Wei is a feeble stream, whose natural outfall to the North would have to be turned Southwards. How can we divide it and turn the different portions different ways, as would be necessary? Again, it is at ordinary times not deep enough for navigation, but in flood it is very turbid. Were we to narrow its course by sluices, these would be broken down by the autumn freshets, and the newly-cut-channel be silted up. Even did neither happen, the salt from the North, the grain from Honan, and all the ordinary traffic would be at the mercy of these sluices—which shows it to be quite impracticable. If the salt from the North has to change its course at Liu-tsing into the Canal, the salt supply of three Provinces will be thrown into confusion. If other streams were diverted to increase the current of the Wei, and these proved muddy, further disasters would ensue. The old saying runs "The people of Yü-chow 豫 have much cause for fear." [This is the name of the K'ai-fung-foo and neighbouring districts, in the Shu-king.] In fact, every device will end as abortively as that in the South at Tsing-kiang-p'u. The Yellow River and the Wei plans are alike impracticable, the labour necessary is not at our disposal.

The melancholy results depicted by Governor Ting as to the Revenue, the water-way, the cities, and the salt interest of Shantung, following on the impossibility of restoring the Huai and the Yellow River to their old courses, are indeed inevitable.

On the Ta-ts'ing River, your minister has to observe that its original channel was a few dozen feet broad. Now from Tung-a-yü Shan down to Li-tsin, the bed has been burrowed out to the breadth of half a li. At the dry season the water is 20 to 30 feet deep, with banks 20 or 30 feet above that. That the bed should contain nine or ten fathoms of water during the fury of the floods when man's strength is worthless, is a circumstance that does not often occur even in answer to prayer. At present the north bank from Ch'i-ho to Li-tsin, and the south bank at Ch'i-tung and P'u-t'ai, are protected by a continuous line of embankments. These are not much more than a dozen feet high, yet are pronounced by the country folk as enough to restrain all but a few feet of the highest floods, and that surplus water they can cope with,—also that no breaches have taken place.

The streams flowing Easterly have been guarded at important points, and no great damage follows the season's rise and fall. The authorities and people of the cities from Ch'i-ho down to P'u-t'ai have been able for 19 years to avert danger; if they can continue so, well and good, otherwise the cities must be moved elsewhere. We can consider that when the time comes; a precipitate removal would be unacceptable to the people. It is only Chün-ch'eng 軍城 that needs such a measure, as that is situated on a very low level, and is submerged hopelessly.

The salt interests of Shantung unfavourably affected by the action of the Yellow River, have been cared for by the Governor of the Province. The salt stranded on its way South to Honan has been helped to

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its destination, and no actual salt-famine has occurred, though the price rose.

That absolutely no damage is caused by the Yellow River taking its present course through Shantung cannot be asserted :—still the local officers may manage to avert any great calamity. In the 18th year of Kien-lung a breach occurred near Hsü-chow, and as it could not be stopped, the Board-President Sun advocated the diversion of the whole River northwards into the Ta-tsing River (its present course). Again in the 46th year of Kien-lung, after repeated failure of the works at Lan-yang, the same views were put forward by the Grand Secretary Chi-huang, and very many others. Then the River had not turned North, as they proposed to bring about ; and now for us to wish to turn it South again would be to run counter to the manifest tendency of the stream. Your Minister has reverently perused the following passage in an Edict of the 16th year of Kia-hing :—"The Yellow River in the "South has of recent years silted up its "channel, and all the expense of many "years, to the amount of thirty million "taels, and all the labour has been "absolutely fruitless. A new outlay of "several tens of millions is in prospect. "How can the Treasury endure such a "drain?" While the river went South, it cost yearly between seven and eight million taels, and that is more than the official salaries, military expenses, and usual deficit of taxes [that the district would cost the Treasury supposing it to be inhabited]." It was indeed a bottomless gulf,—since the combined exertions of the whole empire could not cope with the deposit and the vagaries of the stream so as to ensure safety. But now the River has run North for twenty years and no great disaster has happened nor any great expense been incurred,—very fortunate as compared with past generations. The capital and its neighbourhood, too, have been very prosperous. Since the 5th year of Hien-fêng, when the great breach took place at T'ung-wa-hsiang, rebels have given Honan and the south of Shantung scarcely a day's peace ; yet they never set foot across the River, which thus served as a bulwark and saved much work to the armies,—a further fortune of the Imperial Domain which will be a wonder to all the ages. The comparison will stand with truth,—as thus : The River runs North, is not very useful, and its damages are slight. The River runs South, is of great value, and its damages are tremendous.

The two cases—the River and the Canal—have hitherto been dealt with jointly as one, to the injury of both without permanent effect. At the commencement of the Ming Dynasty the turning south of the River first rendered the Canal serviceable as a continuous grain-route. There is no continuity possible now that the River has turned North. It is impossible to benefit one and the other at the same time. The saying runs "At the last extremity change your tactics ; the change must do good,"—and this is applicable now. We must start with treating the River as a river, the Canal as a canal. All our action with regard to the Canal must be guided by a caution against taking any old arrangements as a pattern. The two following remarks are decisive :—If the Canal has water, the grain can come ; if not, not ;—If you can turn any surplus water southwards for the benefit of that quarter the grain can come ; if not, not.

Up to 1861 the Westerly waters from Tai-shan fed the Canal both North and South of Chang-ch'iu, but after that they poured southwards only, doing great damage to the Canal banks and necessitating a detour on the route of the grain junks by way of the River P'o as far as Pa-li-miao. The Yellow River water had not then reached Chang-ch'iu, and the only method for filling the Canal northwards was by collecting rain-water in tanks,—a plan which is most temporary in its nature. The plan of using the deposit-bearing Yellow River and dredging out the debris year by year is equally wanting in permanency. To crowd the channel of the Canal with grain junks when dependent on such uncertain supplies, would be a loss not merely of labour alone.

Were we to pursue the system once of old proposed, of following the Yellow River to Li-chin and thence by way of the sea to Tientsin, it would certainly be expeditious ; but boats are not fitted for the Yangtsze, the Canal, and the sea, irrespectively, and the necessary storages at the points of transhipment would be fertile in abuses without honest officers to superintend ; and further, a portage of 200 li and more from Chang-ch'iu to Lin-tsing overland would entail endless expense for carts, bullocks, and the exigencies of weather. Nor at the northern end of this portage could an adequate supply be kept of flat-bottomed boats This exhausts all the schemes for improving the transport by way of the Canal.

In Your Minister's humble opinion the revenue from Kiangsu and Chekiang is the chief feeder of the Treasury, and the defence of the seaboard is the main point of importance for the integrity of the

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Empire. Our coast line of several thousand *li* is traversed by a continuous stream of foreign vessels, for the first time in all the ages, and it is impossible to shut them out now and keep it to ourselves. There is nothing for it, then, but to encourage our own mercantile marine by degrees, and at the same time benefit the Peking Commissariat, by making use of the ocean-highway. The Grain from Kiangsu and Chekiang was already sea-borne, when Your Minister invited some Chinese Merchants to purchase steamers for its conveyance, and this plan has proved somewhat successful. Since the success of our arms, Kiangsi, Kuangtung and Kuangsi have been allowed to commute the Grain tribute for a low money-payment, to the great satisfaction of the people. If the Grain tribute were again taken in kind, the transport expenses would be enormous, and would have to be met either by an increased levy from the people—risking an emeute, or by a drain on Imperial Funds—which have nothing to spare. It appears therefore right to continue the present commutation, allowing, too, as at present, a discretionary power to the High Provincial Authorities to purchase grain from time to time, and send it to Shanghai, thence to be forwarded to Tientsin by sea, as the quickest and most convenient route. Should the supply at Peking be found inadequate, more may be purchased with the commutation tribute in the Southern Provinces, directly or through Tientsin merchants, and that without ultimate loss to the Treasury. Your Minister prays that the Board of Revenue may be directed to draw out a permanent scheme in this sense.

Although the Canal cannot be preserved as a continuous route, the Yellow River must not be left out of sight altogether. Our present mode of dealing with it must be according to the saying of the men of old: "Wherever there is water, run up a dyke."

The North Bank above Chang-ch'iu, for 200 li up to Kai-chow, has reliable dykes constructed in ancient times. Below Chang-ch'iu, for the 800 li to its mouth at Li-chin, the North Bank is high and the channel deep. All that is required is for the Governor of Shantung to cause additions to be made from time to time to the dykes made by the local inhabitants.

The Southern Bank from An Shan to the mouth has the Heaven-sent bulwark of the Tai-shan mountains. Above An Shan as far as Tsao-chow Fu, namely 200 li and more, the land lies low. The district was once called the Chü-yay Marsh, 鉅野澤, and in the Sung Dynasty, the Liang-shan Water. From the Sung Dynasty till our own, the locality embracing Tsao-chow, Shên-chow, Chü-yay hsien and Chin-hsiang hsien 金鄉, has always been flooded when the River took a burst Northwards, and sometimes many magistracies together have formed a vast sheet of water, confounding in one lake and canal, reaching even to Hsü-chow and Huai-an in the South.

Though the breach at Hou-chia-lin has been well banked, the dykes for a hundred *li* and more only vary from five to fifteen feet high and cannot be long relied on. A disaster there would involve frightful consequences in Southern Shansi to the waterways, to agriculture, and to the cities. The River too must be expected to go on silting up this its channel northwards, even up to its present mouth. Your Minister therefore prays that the Throne will direct Ting Pao-chên, Governor of Shantung, after the autumn freshets, to furnish an estimate, and funds to meet it, for raising the local constructions to a uniform height and breadth with Government dykes. If it were possible to construct a continuous line of defences as far as Tsao-chow, throwing the responsibility of their custody on the authorities of Southern Shansi, a permanent benefit would accrue. The claims for relaxation of grain tribute deserve to be looked into in the pitiable case of the dozen or so magistracies which have been submerged for ten years and more. The Salt interests (i.e. of the producers and carriers) on the seaboard will require consideration and assistance from time to time.

The breach at Tung-wa-hsiang is some ten *li* wide, and there is some danger of the River scooping out a channel to the Eastward unless precaution is taken. It has indeed formed for itself a bed at present, but that may be overflowed at any high flood, and the next direction taken by the water under those circumstances would be quite problematical. Your Minister would therefore propose that Chiao Sung-nien, the River Superintendent, should be instructed to consider the steps necessary for constructing a second line of dykes to connect with those at Tsaochow in Shantung, on the North Bank; and another second line from An-shan on the South Bank to connect with the old dyke made by the Kin Dynasty, near the breach at Tung-wa-hsiang. These sixty or seventy *li* would be cheap and easy of construction, untroubled by any floods during work. For only 20 or 30 *li* of that distance is the

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river often full, and for only four or five is it dangerous. Within these outworks, enclosing a space half a *li* (300 yards) broad by twenty feet or so deep, the River might expatiate and deposit mud at its will, without damage, and would be conducted gently, undisturbed by irritating obstacles, down to the Ta-tsing River, and it would have no need to seek a new channel. The land thus occupied would be relieved of ground-rent in proportion to the amount of crops to be sacrificed, actually or prospectively, so that it may not be wholly abandoned. The people will not be greatly afflicted by such an arrangement.

On the old bed towards Hsü-chow and Huai-an, for a distance of four or five hundred miles, the water can never flow again, and the people have occupied it and raise yearly crops of great abundance. Your Minister prays that the Viceroys and Governors of Shantung, Honan and Kiangsu may be directed to select officers to assess this land, else it will escape taxation.

This memorial on the Grand Canal and Yellow River has been drawn up at the Imperial Desire. As to whether it contains anything of value, Your Minister would present it, kneeling, to the Sacred Glance, and await instruction.—Rescript: Will consider it.

Aug. 19th.—An Edict amplifying one already issued on the mode in which posthumous honours must be applied for.

Aug. 20th.—Edict. The Viceroy at Nanking having recommended for a subsidiary shrine, certain officers who fell in defence of that City, this is accorded. Let the Board take note.

Aug. 21st.—Edict.—Li Hung-chang having reported certain Magistrates as defaulters to the Treasury to the amount altogether of Tls. 64,800, Black Dates Piculs 90, Rice Piculs 900, &c., We direct that the property belonging to those officers shall be attached, whether the property is at their official residence, or at their native places. The Governors of the respective Provinces to which the defaulters belong, are ordered to take the necessary steps.

Aug. 22nd.—Edict.—Shao Hêng-yü has prayed that Liu Shêng-pao, a general in Kan-su, may be allowed to retire into mourning and perform his father's obsequies. Liu cannot at present be dispensed with, but must continue to perform his duties until the country is quite pacified. In the meantime, to wipe away as much as possible the trouble this must cause to the departed shade, We hereby advance the deceased father one step in rank.—Let the Board take note.

[Here follows a long list of appointments.]

Aug. 21st & 22nd.—Memorial from Liu Kuên-i, Governor of Kiangsi, on taxation, in continuation of a previous memorial. The memorial is occasioned by one from Hu Chia-yü, a chief Censor, who denounced the illegal excess of taxation in Kiangsi, and prayed that it might be reduced to the legal rate. This excess was sanctioned by the Throne, first on the representation of Tsêng Kwo-fan, the then viceroy, and Shên Pao-chên, the then Governor, ten years ago, and several times since. Previous to that time a much larger rate had been levied. The rates then sanctioned are in force now, and it is prayed they may continue so. For every legal tael one mace of tax on uncultivable land, one tael five mace is levied, and this is distributed thus:—to the Treasurer one candareen, to the Prefect, five candareens, to the magistrate two mace four candareens,—held for extraordinary disbursements, one mace, total four mace. The latter items include expenses at the triennial and yearly examinations, the autumn circuits, and the prefectural court expenses; also in forwarding officers and messengers on their way to Peking, and granting extra assistance towards keeping order in thinly-peopled districts if turbulent, and in raising the salaries of writers in the higher Yamêns to the same rate as those in magistrates' offices. An increase is also levied in the commuted grain-tribute of sixty cents, of which two go to the Taotai, five to the Prefect, thirty-three to the magistrate, and twenty to the extraordinary disbursements; total, 60 cents. The one candareen allotted to the Treasurer is the only item which can be disallowed, and this affords some, though not much, relief to the Taxpayer. [It brought in Tls. 18,786 to the Treasurer's pocket!]

The large proportion allotted to the Magistrates is to meet the expenses of collectors, freight, coolie hire, stationery, and fuel. The salaries of these officials are really inadequate, and it is impossible to force them to bear the additional outlay. They would certainly manage to extort an extra amount from the taxpayers,—it is better therefore to sanction a known increase than to leave the addition to be fixed by their cupidity. Great amelioration has resulted from the working of this plan, in easing the position of the several officers concerned. The increase in the grain tribute of sixty cents is really necessary, for the commutation was fixed at an unfairly low rate. Rice is never as low as One Tael Ninety cents or 2,000 cash per picul, at which the increased

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commutation now leaves it. And the increase is not compulsory, for any one by paying at the due date may escape it; thirty cents more is levied after a certain time, and again thirty cents after a further period. This system of demanding payment for time allowance was in vogue even under the old regime of levy in kind, and indeed there would be no getting the taxes in at all without a penalty of this sort.—Rescript: The Memorial has been carefully perused, and its tenor is approved, but let there be great care taken to denounce for severe punishment any departure from the approved scale. Let the Board take note. Respect this.

Aug. 23rd.—Edict (1).—[A very lengthy list of honours and decorations bestowed on those who helped in any way to retake Ta-li-fu and the other cities occupied by the Mahomedan rebels.]

Edict (2).—Tsai-ch'ien and his colleagues have prayed that a high officer be commissioned to report on the repairs required at the tombs of the Empresses. Yin Chao-yung is directed to perform that service.

Memorial (3).—The Censorate reports an appeal case from Honan. The origin of the dispute arose from a contested title to valuable mining property, the appellants shewing good deeds from Kienlung's reign, while the other side fabricated documents purporting to be of date under Yung-lo and other Emperors of the Ming dynasty. The latter were exposed and condemned, but by bribery managed to get out of prison and in revenge collected a rabble who destroyed 2,000 trees on the property, and also killed a nephew of the complainants; and they have evaded punishment for these acts hitherto for the last four years,—also by means of bribery. —Rescript: Recorded.

Memorial (4).—From the same. Another appeal case. The father of the complainant incurred the wrath of some underlings in the Yamên of the magistrate at Chien-shih, because he had denounced them for forging and using for corrupt purposes an official seal. Friends of the latter by name Hsiang and Huang then dressed up in officer's uniform, and collected some hundreds of followers, whom they furnished with red turbans, swords, spears and some light cannon, and sacked and ruined the homestead of the complainants, destroying everything in the place, and killing father, cousin, and uncle. Four years have since elapsed in fruitless efforts to obtain justice, as neither the Magistrate nor Prefect will attend to the orders of the Governor or Judge of the province. Rescript: Recorded.

August 24th.—Prince Tun and others return their thanks for a present of Birds-nests.

Edict (1) Let the Board of Punishment consider and report on the memorial of Vice-President Hsia Tung-shan, advising that the rate of punishment pronounced on robbers be altered to the old-established law.

(2) Memorial from Censor Hsü Ting-Kuei, recommending revision of taxation throughout the Empire. [This is quoted fully in the Edict based on it which appeared on 12th August.]

(3) The Governor of Yünnan recommends a special shrine for the father and mother of General Ho Yau-tsêng. The General remained at his post for ten years after his mother's death, and, though broken-hearted, would not allow his natural feelings sway until the province was recovered. The mother had committed suicide during the advance of the rebel troops. The Governor will see to the repair of all the old shrines granted for distinguished service.—Rescript: Will consider.

(4) From the same. Records movements in the service.—Rescript: Recorded.

August 25th.—Edict.—Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, reports the attainment by Hsü Chi-yü, lately Chief of the T'ai-p'o-ssü (Department of State) of the sixtieth anniversary from the passing of his Chü-jên degree, and prays leave to give the usual feast in honour of the occasion. This gentleman passed his Doctor's degree (Chin-shih) very early in life, then while in the Hanlin College was raised to the rank of a Governor of a Province, and finally attained the post from which he but recently retired. He is hereby advanced to the grade of 1st Button, and the feast prayed for is allowed to take place.

(2) Two Memorials from the Governor of Yünnan in favour of posthumous honours to various officers.

Aug. 26th.—Edict making two appointments in the Board of Revenue.

(2) Four Memorials from the High Authorities of Yünnan and Kweichow requesting bestowal of various honours, and other routine matters.

Aug. 27th.—Edict.—Hsü Kang-shên is appointed Acting Chief of the Kuang-lu-ssü.

(2) Memorial from Wên-t'ien 文銛, announcing his taking the seals of Office as Hoppo of Canton.

(3) From Pao-sun 寶珣 asking a month's extension of time for reaching his post. He caught a fever from a

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wetting he got in journeying through Chihli, but struggled on as far as Shansi, where he is now detained.

(4) From Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shansi. He states that some answers to prayer have been accorded by the Kuan-yin Temple at Yao-chow, and prays for Imperial recognition of the fact.—Rescript: Under consideration.

Aug. 28th.—Edict. Records sundry promotions for service in the late successful campaigns.

(2) The Censorate reports an appeal from Kuang-si. The Appellants are Mo Lan-sên, Chou Hsio-mêng and Tsêng Kuang-hua. At Nan-tan-chow a man named Mo Yung-hsi 莫 and his son conducted a raid on the appellant Mo's property, killing and spoliating. As the ring-leader could not be caught, his wife and eldest son were beheaded by the Governor's orders. Mo Yung-hsi then fled to Ssü-ch'êng, a neighbouring town, and there mustering some members of a secret society to the number of several thousand, led them next spring to Nan-tan and there occupied a hill over against the town, and proceeded to appropriate a great part of appellant Mo's property—viz: six hamlets and the land adjoining. Appellant moved thirty li off, to another part of his property, but was even there molested, his farm servants frightened away, 37 of his bullocks and three horses being carried off; and finally during the next winter appellant's uncle carried off the whole of his stock including 13,000 piculs of rice. Mo Yung-hsi then brought down a band of Miao-tzü to prevent investigation in Court. These filibusters have been able to thwart justice by wholesale bribery, notwithstanding orders from the high authorities, and even the detachment of a body of soldiers to drive them away. Appellant Chou tells a similar tale.—Rescript: Recorded.

Aug. 29th.—Edict. (1) A list of promotions.

(2) Wu T'ang Governor of Sse-chuan, addressed the throne sometime ago asking for an investigation into his conduct, which was aspersed by one Li Hsüan-hai, whom he had dismissed from the post of Magistrate at T'ung-chiang Hsien and reduced to expectant rank for want of experience. Li complained that this was done out of personal spite and from no real grounds. Kuei-yü was directed to examine into the charges, and now has presented his report. The charges that Wu T'ang's suite made him presents of food and money on his birthday, and that when he went on circuit his retinue amounted to a thousand in number and enforced contributions to pay his expenses, are pronounced utterly unfounded. The Taotai T'an Show-ling, is not Wu T'ang's private Secretary, and was recommended to the Throne for promotion on account of his activity in forwarding funds to Kueichow, not by Wu T'ang, but by Tsêng Pi-kuang, Governor of Kueichow. On the statements that Prefect Chang Tung had demanded money for himself and Taotai T'an before a certain matter could be done, in proof of which Li propounded two letters, and that Chang Tung had told Li to give Wu T'ang Tls. 2,000, Li himself was examined and he confessed they were baseless. He entered a formal retractation of the charges, and stated that he had always been subject to affections of the head; that his secretary, Pei Shih-p'ei, from the same part of the country, had put him up to making these accusations in the hope of getting back his post, and had fabricated the pretended letters to be used as proofs; and that Pei had absconded.—We direct Li to be degraded and dismissed from official employment for ever, and to be kept under strict surveillance in his native place. Pei Shih-p'ei must be strictly searched for and dealt with according to law.—Kuei Yü in a further memorial states that the number of officers in Sse-chuan who are dangling about waiting for vacancies is very great. The number may be reduced by ordering some to seek for employment elsewhere,—such as those who came originally as private secretaries, those who purchased rank without indicating the Province they wished to serve in, and those who already have a relative in that Province. Wu T'ang is hereby directed to appoint a period within which all such must leave the Province, and to see that none evade his order either by hiding away or inventing plausible excuses. Let the Board take note.—Respect this.

Edicts (3) & (4) appoint High Commissions to hear appeals.

(5) Memorial from Ch'iao Sung-nien, superintendent of the Yellow River. He reports that the River was low after the Spring freshets; yet not knowing what might happen he took occasion to strengthen the banks, and it was well he did so, for on the 5th July the River rose 3 feet 2, on the 11th 3 feet 5, on the 15th 3 feet 9: total ten feet and one-tenth. The Hsin 新 River also rose a total of nearly six feet. Though it rained badly after the 10th July—more severely than last year—the works have passed the ordeal

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safely. It is impossible to say whether next year we may be as fortunate; the local officers have been urged to ceaseless care. —Rescript: Noted.

(6) Chang Ying, Judge (with Treasurer's rank) of Kuangsi, reports having taken over the seals of office. Rescript: Noted.

(7) An appeal case from the Censorate. This, like the Memorial of the 28th Aug. is occasioned by the filibuster Mo Yung-hsi. The appellant Liu Chêng-pong states that his wife had been carried off by Mo on one of his raids,—that his brother was just about to take home a lady as his bride in 1868, when Mo came by and snatched her off to be his concubine No. 16,—that the appellant's wife made her escape and got back to his house last year, and thereupon Mo came with a strong body of picked men and ravaged the place at dead of night. All the inhabitants dispersed in fright, and many have not been seen since. Liu's father, a man of 80, received five wounds—the marks of which are evidence. No justice has been obtained from the High Provincial authorities.—Rescript: Recorded.

August 30th.—Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin had Audience this day on his appointment as Prefect for an early vacancy. [It was he who was snubbed for his memorial on 31st July, upon the accumulation of undecided cases in Moukden and Kirin. Late memorials of his appeared on the 11th and 12th August.]

(2) Edict. Yi-jung, 奕榕, Manchu Military Governor of Kirin, and his colleagues, report a disastrous fire in the 5th moon which distroyed the city of Alchuku, in that district. Seven thousand odd buildings were burnt down, including the Yamêns, prisons and Bannermen's quarters. Eight lives were lost. The Governing Body is directed to make good in full all the losses sustained by the people. Certain officers who failed to take measures to prevent the fire, and who were remiss in checking its spread, are handed over to the Board for punishment and are also ordered to find means to rebuild the public establishments.

(3) (4) and (5) Edict appointing Literary Examiners for Honan, Shantung and Shansi.

The Grand Council was verbally informed by H. I. M. that the ordinary Court Ceremonies would be dispensed with on the 2nd and 3rd September.

(6) Memorial.—From Li Hung-chang on the floods from the Yung-ting. This was quoted in the Edict of the 18th August.

(7) From the same, also quoted in an Edict of the 18th August, granting posthumous honour to a former Viceroy of Chihli.

Aug. 31st.—Memorials 1 and 2.—The newly arrived Brigadier at Chusan announces the date of his taking over seals of office, and returns thanks for the appointment.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) The Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang recommends an officer for a vacant military post.—Rescript: Let the Board report on this.

Sept. 1st.—Mao Yung-hsi reports himself at Court on his return from the Western Tombs. Yin Chao-yung takes his farewell audience before going to inspect the Eastern Tombs.

Various Edicts appoint officers in connection with the approaching examinations at Peking.

Memorial (1). From Li Tsung-hsi Viceroy at Nanking. Reports temporary arrangements consequent on the death of Salt Commissioner Yüan Pao-ch'ing. —Rescript: Noted.

(2) From the same.—Announces that the extra military competition, granted to commemorate the thirtieth birthday of the late Emperor, but postponed on account of the campaigns, will be held in the tenth moon this year concurrently with the regular competition, as the Board of War desires.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(3) From the same.—Proposes posthumous honours for the late Salt Commissioner Yüen Pao-ch'ing, viz:—asubsidiary shrine in the shrine already granted to his nephew, Yün Chia-san.—Rescript: Under consideration.

(4) Li Ho-nien, Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang, reports having handed over the seals of Manchu Commander-in-chief and Superintendent of Customs to their proper holder, Wên-yü, who has just returned from a leave of absence extending over eight months.

Sept. 3rd.—Edict (1) Li Ho-nien, Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang, having reported Chiang Ch'ang-kuei, present Chinese Commander-in-chief of the Land Forces in Fuhkien, as incapacitated by age and of but ordinary ability, that officer is hereby placed on the retired list. The Brigadier at Fuhning, Lo Ta-ch'un, will take his place, and Sung Kwei-fang will take Lo's.

(2) & (3) Kuang-show being absent on service, Na-jên will perform his duties as a Secretary of the Board of Punishment, and Ts'ai-hêng-a as a Manchu Sub-Brigadier.

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(4) Memorial from the Censorate, Ma Chêng-lung, of Kuei-hua in the part of Shansi beyond the Great Wall, has again come before the Censorate. Last year he moved the Board to call on the Governor of the Province to hear and determine his plaint, but to no good purpose, for the official sent by the Governor to represent him was bought over by the opposite side, and has tortured appellant's friends so severely that two of them have committed suicide. Ma believes that it was the intention to drive all on his side to the same end. The original accusation was against Wang Yen-chêng noted for "rigging the markets," and some Yamên subordinates, for having obtained from him on pretence of corvées, Tls. 2,100, and robbed him of 575 camels. The appellant describes the official demands throughout Shansi for draught power as enormous, and giving rise to great abuses. Many magistracies both South and North levy a toll on passing carts and horses, and seize on camels for official needs. At Ling-shih in mid-Shansi a man has set up a camel post-house, from which he undertakes to supply officials with necessary animals, and in order to enable him to bear the expense [for the official tariff is fixed too low] he collects from four villages the yearly sum of 14,000 *cash*. At Sin-fên and Hsiao-i eight *cash* is demanded as toll from each camel, which does not release them from the liability to serve the corvée, and yet they are detained if it is unpaid. At Kwangwu in the Tai-chow district, the official has set up a barrier at which he exacts 100 *cash* for each horse, and has thus extorted 44,000 *cash* from the appellant. The Likin Barrier at Hsia-chow is gradually raising its charges, and has set up a private Court of justice of its own, which has made the place a terror to merchants. The messenger by whose hand the appeal was sent by Ma and reached the Board, is unable to say in which Court the case was first heard.—Rescript. Recorded.

(2) Ch'iao Sung-nien, Yellow River Superintendent, details the state of the River and its tributary the Hsin, between the 15th and 29th July. They had reached the depth of 25 feet at the latter date, from ten feet and six feet respectively at the former. He enters into minute particulars of the works on the banks, which are divided into numbered sections for facility of reference.—Rescript. Noted.

Sept. 3rd.—Edict. The Kirin Government reports that last month an incendiary fire took place at Ngêmnhêsolo, destroying the garrison quarters, the posting house and other govt. buildings and some war material. It was caused by a few dozen robbers who were pillaging some shops and set fire to them. The fellows got off under cover of night. H. I. M. expresses his extreme detestation of Chung-shou, the officer in charge, for not having taken the slightest precaution, nor set out in chase of the culprits, thus allowing their traces to grow cold. He, and other officers, are deprived of rank, but ordered to remain at their posts and to catch the thieves within the usual period, under pain of severe punishment. They are ordered also to reinstate the government buildings and make good the loss of war material. The Government of Kirin must see to it that not a single robber escapes with life. Let the Board take note.

(2) Memorial from the Censorate. In 1862 at Mu-yang in the north of Kiang-su, a man named Pao Ta-an led a band of mounted robbers against the appellant Wang's hamlet, killing five relatives. Ta-an though clearly indicated as the chief culprit by many witnesses, has managed to evade justice by bribing the magistrate and all his subordinates. He has thus succeeded in shifting the accusation of being the principal, upon three men who are his slaves 家奴. Appeals to the Governor and Viceroy have simply met with a reference back to the local authorities. The Censorate draws particular notice to the fact that this case was three times entered in the District Court, and also once each in the Governor's and Viceroy's Yamêns, without obtaining personal attention.—Rescript: Recorded.

(3) From Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shensi. This has already appeared in the Edict which ordered General Lin Ming-tsao to continue his duties in spite of the news having reached him of his parent's death.

(4) From the same. In obedience to the Edict of the 12th July the Judge Ying-kuei is ordered to return to Peking. His successor cannot arrive from Fuchow for 9 or 10 months, and in the meanwhile Shao will attend to the judicial work himself.—Rescript: Noted.

September 4th.—Edict. (1) Li Shên is appointed Brigadier at Sui-ming and Tsing-chow in the S. W. of Hunan.

(2) Chêng-lin is appointed acting Brigardier in the West portion of the Capital.

(3) Memorial from Ying Han, Governor of Anhuei. He requests a memorial tablet in honour of Miss Chao, whose betrothed died just before the day of marriage. She at once entered the house of her betrothed's mother and accepted the duties of a daughter towards her, and

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she has since for five years kept thus in all diligence and purity, though only twenty-seven years old now.—Rescript: Granted.

(4) From the same, Reporting on an officer after the year's probation. It is not a year since that regulation was promulgated, but the officer has been under notice during a whole year and very favourably.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(5) From Wu T'ang, Viceroy of Szechuen. He recommends two widows for commemoration, both of whom came under his observation while Taotai at Hsüchow. Both lost their husbands in battle when twenty or twenty-one years old. One committed suicide on the spot, the other lived a decorous life for sixteen years, till her death. Rescript: Granted.

(6) From the same, Recording movements among the lower officials.—Rescript: Noted.

Sept. 5th.—All the three memorials are on the repairs to Imperial Tombs.

Sept. 6th.—Edict. Tso Tsung-tang, Viceroy of Kansu and Shensi has presented a memorial reporting the capture of rebel leaders, and requesting honours for the dead and living who helped to this result. General Chang Chung-ch'un has brilliantly effected the capture of the banditti who last year managed to break through the cordon formed round them near Ho-chow. The Board is directed to take note of this and report on suitable reward. A Lieutenant who died in battle is also recommended to the Board's notice.

(2) Memorial from Hsia T'ung-shan 夏同善, a Vice-President of the Board of War, and Literary Examiner in the Peking district. He states that now it is fully time to revise the statutory punishments in a milder sense, for robbery, murder, and wounding. The Board of Punishments some years ago recommended delay before this step was taken, but now H. I. M. has himself taken the reins of Government and given so many proofs of mildness and benevolence that the subject may be broached again.

[Fluctuations in the severity of the penalties during the last 200 years are recounted, dictated apparently by the state of feeling at Court as it swayed between easy confidence and cowardly terror]. Rescript: Recorded.

(3) An enclosure from Viceroy of Kwangtung. Ting Jih-chang 丁日昌 who has been in retirement at his native place near Swatow, on account of his mother's death, now announces that the period which the law fixes for performance of obsequies has expired, but that he is too unwell at present to hasten to Court and place his head in the dirt while praying for further employment. He will take the earliest moment of convalescence to report himself for duty. Rescript: Noted.

(4) From the same.—An enclosure. Reporting the surrender of office by Ch'ung-li 崇禮, who has been Hoppo of Canton for the last four years. He has accounted for every cent which the Treasury demands from that office. The revenue from the Maritime Customs increased under his hands by several lakhs, which have all been placed to account. He has rendered valuable assistance in the discussion of questions of Foreign policy. He is recommended to the notice of the Throne accordingly.—Rescript: Let him await employment in the Nui-woo Fu.

Sept. 7th.—Edict.—A disturbance (with stabbing) took place on the 4th inst. by Lien-hsi, a Mongol of the Bordered-white Banner, in revenge for his brother's death. That brother had been driven to suicide by the insulting reproaches of a creditor. Instead of taking the case before the proper courts, Lien-hsi brought a rabble into the Forbidden City. He is handed to the Board of Punishments, and his following must be arrested and brought up for examination. The officers on duty as guard at the gates during the time, and all others who might have prevented the unseemliness, are to be punished.

(2) Memorial from the Governor of Shansi. This was quoted lately in an Edict allowing a feast in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of an old gentleman's M.A. degree. It recounts Hsü Chi-yü's services.

(3) An enclosure from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Shensi and Kansu. He announces an appointment he has made to Tank'or, a sub-prefecture in Si-ning district. Rescript: Noted.

(4) An enclosure from the same. Requests the dismissal from the service of a Tsung-ping. This officer reported that his father had come to the station-quarters, and asked leave to accompany him on his return to the Provincial Capital; this being granted, the officer took the opportunity of going all the way to his native place with his parent,—leaving his command at a critical moment.—Rescript: Let him be cashiered at once. Let the Board take note.

(5) An enclosure from the Governor of Shansi. The Treasurer Li Ch'ing-ao 李慶翱 announces that he delivered up the seals of office on the 14th July, and

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on the 4th August left for his native place, Li-ch'êng Hsien 歷城 in Shantung, there to perform funeral rites.—Rescript: Noted.

September 8th.—Edict. (1) A military appointment. (2) A present of foreign rifles has been made to the Ordnance Department by Taot'ai Ch'ên-Ch'in 陳欽 of the Tientsin Maritime Customs. The Board will make record of this instance of public spirit, and honour it highly.

(3) Those in charge of the repairs to the Imperial Tombs beg that an auspicious day be named for setting up again in their places the tablets supposed to represent the spirits of the departed. The Astronomical Board is directed to choose a day in the next month.

(4) Your slave Ch'ung-shih 崇實 kneeling presents a memorial, and looking up prays for the sacred glance thereon. Your slave has often repeated his orders to the Prefect of Jehol and his subordinates, to be diligent in arresting and punishing evil men in the district, which from its large extent is peculiarly open for outside ruffians to come in and perform their villainies. Kuei-chao, Acting Prefect of Jehol, has now reported as follows:—Some of his runners were patrolling the streets, and got as far as the Blue Banner Court when they saw Ch'ang-hsi, a Bannerman, holding another man and shouting that his son had been decoyed away and wounded by him. The fellow gave a cut at Ch'anghsi and ran off, but chase was given and he was caught and a sickle found on his person. He gave his name as Chang Shou-ts'ai and was taken to the Prefect's Yamên. The child was examined and found to have three cuts from a sharp instrument—cuts which did not bleed. Ch'ang-hsi also was wounded on his right hand. On the same day was arrested on Red-Bridge Street, a man of suspicious appearance who gave his name as Wang Tien-ch'ên, and on him was found a sickle and a child's hat.—Your slave then ordered the Examiner Deputy to use the severest tortures on the men; they were to be examined separately and repeatedly. Their depositions are now before me. Chang Shou-t'sai states;—I have hitherto been a boat-tracker on the Grand Canal. A man named Liu, whom I know well by sight, but whose native place I don't know, came to me in Oct. 1871, and told me to get him some hearts and eyes, at fifty taels a set. He provided me with a small packet of powdered drugs, a small bottle of drug in solution, a sickle boiled in drug, a small bamboo tube, and a writing pencil tube. He told me to put the powder into the pencil tube and blow it in the face of any small child. It would then follow me in a trance to a solitary place. I was then to cut into the region of the heart with the sickle and hook the heart out; also to hold the eyelids open with one hand, and gouge out the eyeballs with the bamboo tube. The child would not bleed nor cry. The eyes and heart were to be rubbed with the solution, and would then keep free from smell and decay in the hottest weather. He gave me five thousand cash for expenses. I used these means near Ts'ao-chow, in Shantung, and took the child's eyes and heart to Liu, for which he paid me fifty Taels. This year again I proposed to myself to commence operations. At Niu-lan-shan I met with Wan Tien-chên, and after mutual confidences we agreed to work in concert outside the Great Wall. In course of time we came to Jehol, and near the market-gardens decoyed a little child away after my prescription. I told Wang to keep watch. Just as I had got the lad down on the ground, he saw a man running towards us. I got nervous and the lad made a movement so that I cut him on the left shoulder and elsewhere. The newcomer caught hold of me, and I struck at him with the sickle and cut his finger, and then ran off throwing away the powder &c. Wang also made off but was caught by the officials.

Wang's statement runs thus:—In Nov. last year I met a man outside the West gate of Tientsin who said his name was Liu Feng-yuan. One day after we got acquainted, he told me to get him sets of eyes and hearts, for which he would pay handsomely. He provided a powder, lotion, sickle, and bamboo tube. The powder was to be put into red-dates and given to small children to eat. They would then fall into a trance and follow me. I was to take them to a solitary place, scoop out the heart and eyes by means of the sickle and bamboo, and rub them with the lotion, which would prevent smell or decay. He gave me five thousand cash (Peking cash) and we went our ways. I bought a few red dates and commenced business at some place to the South of Tientsin, and again at Nin-t'ou-chuang. For these two sets Liu gave me Tls. 100 or so.

This tallied with Chang's tale, but I gave orders to go over the whole ground again with them both. Their confessions do not vary; so that the unvarnished truth is now before us. The three cases in which the culprits confess to having used their nefarious arts, occurred in other Provinces indeed, and we cannot investigate them without some delay, but at any

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rate here we have solid proof in the decoying away of Ch'anghsi's son.

The law treats maiming a living person in the same way whether the result following be death or merely wounding. Here we have without doubt a case provided against by the very terms of the law,—"cutting of a portion from a living body." Chang and Wang, extraordinary ruffians though they are, would yet not have engaged in this murderous crime had no one given them the powder and taught them the use of it, and if they had not had the hope of great gain held out to them they would not have taken a pleasure in it. Their guilt admits of being distinguished from that of principal in "cutting from a living body." That they did yield to persuasion and used drugs to decoy and slay, ranks them as "accomplices of special prominence," 從加功者 and as such renders them liable to beheading.

The mere relation of this crime must make the hair stand on end, much more will the heart be pained at actual eyewitness of it. The people of Jehol are fearfully agitated, and the law must therefore take its course swiftly. Were we to wait till Liu was caught and the whole case presented in its entirety, before execution, the law might be cheated of its victims, and the signal example and comfort to men's minds be lost, during the necessary delays.

Jehol has never yet witnessed an execution. * But as this case is worse than any robbery, a new procedure must be followed. The Taotai and other officers of Jehol have therefore been instructed to make a final examination of Chang and Wang, and thereupon bind them and lead them straight to a public place, there to be executed. Thus men's minds will be fortified and their indignation find due vent. A secret and confidential despatch has been sent to the Viceroy of Chihli, asking him to take measures for the arrest of Liu Fêng-yuan,—and a report, with the evidence, also made to the Board of Punishment.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment take note.

Sept. 9th.—Edict. (1) On the report of the Governor of Honan, various officers are degraded from Magistracies &c.

(2) Ch'un-hsiu 春岫 is appointed Governor of the Sha-hu Gate in the Great Wall.

(3), (4) and (5), appoint High Commissions for appeal cases.

* Its inhabitants are mostly of Imperial Blood, and are not subject to capital punishment.

(6) An appeal case from the Censorate. P'an Wên ts'ai, from Lu shih Hsien in Honan, states that his maternal brother was inveigled by some men of a guild to a gambling bout, where he lost four hundred strings of cash. The gamblers seized on his land and sold away his wife. He laid a plaint before the Magistrate, but the official he deputed was bought over and the gambling was reported as not proven. The brother continued to push his case, and when the ruffians heard of it they sent some who contrived to get him into one of their houses, and there they pounded him with stones, breaking his two thighs. They then brought him to the Magistrate's Yamên, where they concocted a tale and bribed the underlings so that the only punishment was that they were condemned to pay medical expenses. Death however soon followed. The appellant was absent all this time, and on his return he was honoured with their little attentions. He appealed to the Governor and Judge, but feeling impatient, came to Peking.—Rescript: Recorded.

(7) Prince Kung and his colleagues of the Great Council report a routine arrangement, on the retirement of one under them into mourning.—Rescript: Noted.

(8) Ting-an, Manchu General in Honan, recommends an officer for good service.—Rescript: Approved. Let the Board take note.

(9) From the Censorate. An appeal case. Han Wên-ping states that a brother of his was a petty official in the country-neighbourhood of T'ang-yin Hsien in the North of Honan. This brother exerted himself effectually in putting down a combination of some neighbours in committing depredations, and afterwards incurred the enmity of some who were implicated in that, by pressing for land tax. They got him to one of their houses and made him drunk, and while taking him home in that state stabbed him fatally in the breast. The chief assassin has kept at large by persistent bribery. No redress has followed application to the High Provincial Authorities.—Rescript: Recorded.

Sept. 10th.—Edict. (1) A distribution of 800 piculs of rice is ordered for the inhabitants of Shun-i, and other magistracies in the Peking District where the floods prevail.

(2), (3) and (4) Appoint High Commissions for appeal cases. A memorial containing the result of the inquiry into the conduct of Wu T'ang, Viceroy of Szechuen, fills up the Gazettes for the 10th and 11th and 12th September. It has been

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carefully condensed in the Edict lately issued on the subject.

Sept. 11th—Edict (1) The Viceroy of Nanking reports the decease of a sometime Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Wu Fing-tung, who resided latterly at Nanking. H. I. M. is deeply affected, orders all record of offences entered against his name to be erased; and the Board will bestow the posthumous honours due to his rank.

(2) & (3) Appointments in connection with Peking examinations for purchased degree.

Sept. 12th—Edict (1) With reference to the floods of the Yung-ting, as to which 800 piculs were lately ordered for distribution, Li Hung-chang is hereby directed to apportion among the revenues of the more fortunate provinces south and east, a charge of three or four hundred thousand Taels, which sum is to go towards alleviating the distress now suffered. He has authority to divert to this purpose all monies arriving at Tientsin from whatever source, and he will, with the Mayor of Peking, take measures for their proper distribution among the deserving. Let the Board take note. Respect this.

(2) An audience is granted to those of a certain grade (lang-chung) in the Board of Punishments who are of 65 years of age and upwards, according to an old usage.

(3) A long list of service movements.

Sept. 13th.—Edict. (1) Those officers of the Board of Punishment who had audience this day as being sixty-five years old and upwards, are disposed of variously, —transferred to other less onerous posts or sent home to their native place.

(2) Memorial from Wang Wên-shao 王文韶 Governor of Hunan. This recommends to the Throne for a commemorative tablet, the heroically chaste conduct of the widow of Wu Lin, a son of the Treasurer of Hunan. She was only 27. She took her husband's death so much to heart that at first she tried to starve herself to death. She was dissuaded from this, but remained rigid and sleepless day and night nevertheless. When the coffin was to be taken to the native place, she asked to accompany it, and on its arrival there took an oath that she would follow her husband in death, praying her friends not to withstand her. She died in eleven days by starving herself,—five months from her widowhood.—Rescript: Accorded. Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(3) Chang-shun hands in a list of letter-cases, memorial-wrappers, and present-boxes for use at Imperial Audiences, which he has taken delivery of and reverently placed in safe and secret custody, in obedience to H. I. M.'s wishes, signified through the Grand Council.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Wang Wên-shao reports for degradation or dismissal sundry officers of the Camp at Ning-hsiang Hsien (30 or 40 miles south of the Tung-ting Lake) for siding with the soldiers in an emeute for back pay, or for not suppressing the riot. Last year the military chest was about a million of Taels in arrear for the whole Province, and promissory notes were given to this amount, payable in instalments at the monthly paydays this year. Governor Wang was at the time travelling at the other end of the Province, at Yuen-chow [else he would be degraded for this.] He states that circumstances still require camps to be kept up in this Province,—military discipline must therefore be sternly administered. The soldiers in this instance were disbanded and dispersed without further accident.—Rescript: Arrangements approved. Let the Board take note.

(5) From the same (enclosure). Reporting that the Admiral of the Yang-tsze, Li Chang-mow, has on certain days in the 4th and 5th moons inspected stations on the Tungting Lake, and afterwards held a consultation with the writer at Chang-sha, the Provincial Capital. The Admiral is bound to distribute his time equally between the Upper and Lower Yang-tsze, and to report himself to the Provincial Governors.—Rescript: Noted.

Sept. 14th.—Edict. (1) A temporary appointment. (2) The Board of Rites begs that a day be named for the change from Summer to Winter caps. The 16th October is hereby fixed for that change.

(3) Memorial. Yang C'hang-hsün, Governor of Chekiang, prays that grain tribute upon thirty-seven odd *mow* may be remitted. This is the space covered by the site of the great temple for containing shrines and commemorative tablets for those who distinguished themselves during the disturbed times of the Taepings. The ground cost 12,000 strings of cash, the buildings were begun in 1871, and finished in fifteen months, costing with the utensils about $24,000. These expenses were met from the general fund subscribed in the Province for the restoration of public buildings.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned report on this.

(4) From the same. Reports for promotions and honourable mention several officers who succeeded in catching some thirty robbers of a band that had been

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infesting the districts between Hoochow and Kia-shing.—Rescript: Granted as prayed. Let the Board take note.

(5) From the same. Reporting a change in the holder of a magistracy.

Sept. 15th.—Edict. (1) A long list of officials whose degradation or dismissal is called for by the Viceroy and Governor of Fuhkien. Some are ordered to seek employment in other Provinces. The offences mentioned are incapacity, being generally disliked, delay of justice, levying an illegal fine, failure to catch culprits, and failure to keep their own relatives in order.

(2) Appointing a High Commission for an appeal case.

(3) Memorial from the Government of Kirin reporting the fire at Alchuku. [Quoted in a recent Edict. Such another disaster, but not including government buildings, occurred in 1806.]

Sept. 16th.—(1) A Gazette of minor changes. (2) Ying-yuan (Head of the Censorate, and General of the Nine Gates) is appointed superintendent of the Tsung-wên-mên,—Ngên-ch'êng to be his second-in-command.

(3) Memorial from Yang Ch'ang-hsün, Governor of Chekiang. He has already in the 5th moon reported the drought that has prevailed;—the 6th moon also continued rainless for the most part. He then prayed for rain, and it did come on the 29th and 30th July and again on the 3rd and 5th August, but not sufficiently to do much good, for it was absorbed immediately by the thirsty ground. Wenchow is the only district that has not suffered. Hangchow, Kia-hing, Hoochow, Ningpo, Shaohing, Taichow, Kin-hua, Ken-chow, Yen-chow and Ch'u-chow have all suffered in their several degrees. Ningpo and Shaohing may save their crops by a late rain. In Kin-hua and the three following places, miscellaneous crops had to be sown instead of rice. Kiahing, Hangchow and Hoochow, although made as it were expressly to grow rice, cannot bear that crop from the long drought. The Summer rains were very few, water in the rivers is too low, and it is impossible to keep the fields moist by the pumps. The unbanked canals and small streamlets are all dried up. Autumnal rains may avert calamity from us. The people are quiet at present. The Governor will again pray for rain. He will also urge the farmers to make greater use of their water-wheels &c. In the Autumn he will send officers to report on the state of the country.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) The Governor of Jehol reports the arrest of four out of a band of eight highway robbers, their confessions, and their sentence to execution. The Imperial sanction is required before the latter can take place.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment report quickly on this.

Sept. 17th.—(1) Edict. On repairs to the Tombs. (2) Gazette of Literary Instructors.

(3) Memorial by the Government at Kirin reporting the fire at Ngêmuhôsolo. [Already quoted in an Edict in which H. I. M. recorded his extreme detestation of the officer in charge.]

(4) The Viceroy at Fuhchow reports on the present value of the official services of Chiang Ch'ang-kuei, General of the Land Forces (Chinese Division) in that Province. Chiang is too old to compass his duties now. His abilities were never very brilliant, and they are so impaired by age that he cannot inspire respect. He cannot conduct a review with proper discipline, so that his subordinates are getting very loose.—Rescript: Under consideration. [The Edict superseding Chiang has already appeared, on the 3rd Sept.]

(5) The Brigadier (Manchu) of Kiukiang reports his arrival at his post, and tenders humble thanks for his appointment.—Rescript: Noted.

Sept. 18th.—Edict (1). Pao-hsün, a Vice President of the Board of War, lately appointed Chief Minister at Lhassa, reports his continued sickness, and requests permission to vacate his appointments and return home to his Banner. This is now granted. Ngên-lin, at present in charge there, is advanced to the rank of Fu Tu-t'ung. When the Minister who is finally to take the post arrives, Ngên-lin will escort Hupilohan of Chêpuntuntanpa to Urga and thence return to Peking. [Pao-hsün, in a memorial in 26th August Gazette, reported his stay in Shensi on account of illness. The journey to Thibet was probably too much for him, even in prospect.]

(2) Memorial from Tu-hsing-a and Yi-ch'ing, requesting that a lucky day be chosen for restoring Ancestral tablets to their places.—[Edict in Sept. 8th.]

(3) (4) and (5) Li Han-chang, Viceroy of Hukuang, reports deaths and changes in his military.

(4) The Viceroy, Li Tsung-hsi, and Governor of Kiangsu, Chang Shu-shêng, join in praying that a military officer (button of the 3rd grade) in the latter's command, may be deprived of office for his better examination by torture. This officer

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engaged as a nurse to his children one of his soldiers' wives, and then desired to take her as concubine. This pollutes the fountains of respect for the gradations of rank.—Rescript: Let him be cashiered at once and examined according to law. Let the Board take note.

Sept. 19th.—Edict (1). The Board of Rites has recommended that sacrifice be made in various places to commemorate the General Pardon [pronounced at the Emperor's ascending the throne, Feb. 26th.] We have this day caused a list of officers for this duty to be drawn out by Grand Council. We must ask how it comes that the Board of Rites is so very much after the time in making this recommendation, the General Pardon having taken place long ago. This is very dilatory, and we hereby administer rebuke to the High Officers of that Board.

(2) The Vice-Presidentship of the Board of War [vacated by Pao-hsün] is conferred on Nyên-ling (a principal Censor).

(3) Yü-liang is appointed Fu Tut'ung of the Chinese Division of the White Banner, [Vice-Pao-hsün.]

(4) The Censor Chang-yün, in a memorial, prays that thorough investigation be made into the cases of the recipients of the bounty lately granted for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Chihli. We lately, at the prayer of the Mayor of Peking, directed 800 piculs of rice to beset apart for those sufferers. We also issued an edict directing that a sum of three or four thousand Taels be diverted from the Likin, Maritime Customs, and Salt Revenues of the Provinces to the East and South, instructing the Viceroy of Chihli to find funds in the meantime, our intention being to make our bounty substantial and thorough. The Censor points out that, without careful personal enquiry in the distribution, there is no means of guarding against pretence and fraud. We therefore direct the Viceroy of Chihli and the Mayor of Peking to send out orders to all the magistrates to pick out honorable, trustworthy persons from among the gentry, who shall make careful inquisition before granting the bounty, and that notice to this effect be printed on a yellow broadsheet and sent everywhere. The magistrates and gentry will be severely punished if there is any fraud.

(5) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shensi, prays leave to detain further two officers who should present themselves for approval at Court, having filled their offices for the legal term. They are however so much needed where they are, on the borders of of Kansu, whence robber-bands are in the habit of making incursions, that it is prayed that they may continue in their posts. The slightest relaxation would be ruinous, and there is no one to supply their places, equally experienced. The same is asked for another officer who since 1862 has been sleeplessly vigilant at hunting up brigands.—Rescript: Granted, Let the Board of Civil office take note.

(6) From the same (Enclosure). The Magistrate of Ch'ou-chih Hsien has reported having captured Kuan-êrh, *alias* Kuan-yen 管彥, who founded a religion and invited followers, but who committed adultery with the betrothed of one Ch'ên Kuan-shêng, and conspired with her for the latter's death. The misguided people were surrounded by the soldiers and many were slain, the women-followers making away with themselves by poison. Their books, insignia, and objects of worship have been taken. There is a picture figuring Lü-tsu-tâ-mo 呂祖達摩, who is a local object of worship, a proper spirit, but there is a very miscellaneous assemblage besides. Their books all persuade towards doing good, towards praying against calamity and for benefits, in fact about the minor virtues, and without anything perverse, unlawful, lying, or cursing.

It appears that Kuan-êrh, with four others, banded themselves together as brothers, and bought a house at An-chia-chai where they set up a scholar's hall, with the picture of Lü-tsu-ta-mo in it, and they printed some old Thibetan prayer-scrolls. They gave forth that by fasting, and reciting the prayers, calamity could certainly be averted, and happiness obtained such as makes it peaceful for them after death.

About 31 (21 of whom are dead) joined the religion, making presents to the leader, of value from 500 to 2,000 cash each. These assembled at the hall, lived on fasting diet, and reverenced the spirit. Kuan-êrh recited the prayer-scrolls, but the rest had not learned them sufficiently. The meeting then broke up. Then occurred the intrigue with Ch'ên's betrothed. The magistrate coming to hear of it sent to arrest Kuan-êrh, and he, fearing punishment, deluded his followers into a trip among the hills on the pretence of worshipping Buddha. A friend was at the same time sent to get the small pennons used in the neighbouring villages in their processions, while Kuan-êrh distributed bamboos, knives and spears among the party. The magistrate surrounded them with his soldiers. Kuan-êrh and others were killed.

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The memorialist then proceeds to apportion the legal guilt among the survivors, the punishment ranging from death to the cangue. He also strongly recommends the magistrate for his energy and success. —Rescript. Noted.

Sept. 20th.—Hing Lin, Kwangko and others (Tartars) lay certain facts before the Throne, praying for the Imperial will.

A pensioned soldier, Lien-hsi, had stolen his way at break of day through the Ou Men—Palace Gate—and had attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat at the side of the Hwei Bridge. The keeper of the keys reported the case, and it appears that the man had been instigated by revenge to commit the act. His younger brother Sung-au had been surety for a certain sum for which he became liable. The sureties pressed him so remorselessly for indemnification that he strangled himself, and Lien-shi adopted the present expedient to make known his brother's injuries. Although Lien-shi was prompted by grievance to this act, he had, notwithstanding, legal means of redress at the proper Courts, and was guilty of great misdemeanour when entering the forbidden gates. Such practices must not be allowed to grow, and it appears right to beg for an Imperial order requiring the proper Board to examine rigidly into the case and adjudge accordingly.—The Imperial will has already been notified.

(2) Tso Tsung-tang gives further incidents from the late seat of war in Kansuh. A certain mounted Rebel chief, who escaped last year from the meshes of the law, has since been leading his hardy followers—about thirty horsemen in all—availing of every opportunity to plunder and rob. Their guerilla movements have been singularly difficult to track, and although watched and pursued day and night by combined forces, only a few of their number were for a long time captured and beheaded. The leader still remained at large, a source of continued anxiety. On the night of the thirteenth of the sixth moon, General Chang Chung-chun, commanding the Tsung-chin Division, ascertained that the band had penetrated to Ta-tung village. Orders were immediately given to the several camps at Ning-ho and Tsi-chah to collect their forces and cut the Rebels off; while the General himself led his cavalry towards their old quartering place Chang-fun-chwang. From thence he followed them to Na-leh-chi, where at break of day the Rebel chief Yang-kiah-yin-shih, with several horsemen, was discerned in the distance making flying observations. Chang-chung-chun spurred his horse, and rushed forward in pursuit. The Rebels opened fire, and Captain Liu Hwan-chang succumbed to the attack, being hit by a bullet. Chang-chung-chun's spirit was further roused, and urging on his steed he came in direct collision with Yang-kiah-yin-shih. The latter fell from his horse, Chang-chung-chun seized it, but the Rebel chief jumped on another steed and fled. Chang-chung-chun mounted the horse he had seized and hotly pursued his enemy. At some distance the Rebel with his followers were interrupted by a deep creek which their horses—being untrained—could not clear. Fortunately, at this moment, a detachment of Imperial horse came up to the support and, attacking them with a tremendous onslaught from the side, they beheaded in the conflict several men and took prisoners Yang-kiah-yin-shih and two others. Chang-chung chun immediately sent one of them, Ma-chau-tsin, to the official Shuh-yuh at Chan-ho-chen, and brought the other two to Lan-chen. Your servant examined them, carried out the extreme sentence of law, and exposed their heads as a warning to the multitude. Soon after this, Shun-yuh captured more prisoners, on whom the penalty of the law was also carried out, causing joy and congratulation amongst the people below. Yang-kiah-yin-shih was a notorious Rebel of Ho-chen. Robbery and plunder have been his means of livelihood. In appearance he was not remarkable, but when mounted it was with him "a hundred shots and a hundred hits." His fame spread through Ho-chen, and to the present day the Mohamedans cannot bring forward his name without changing countenance. That General Chang-chung-chun, with his own hand, should have succeeded in capturing this chief in his lair, is sufficient to rejoice the heart; and it behoves your servant to beg that the Board be ordered to deal with his deserts in a liberal and fitting way, that zeal for the public service be further stimulated. As regards the Captain, Liu-Hwan-chang, who died for his country in battle, Imperial grace should also be requested on his behalf—i.e., that according to the established rule, in the matter of Captains dying in the ranks, the Board be required to mark their sympathy, and soothe his loyal soul.—A Rescript was received: "Our commands will be separately recorded. Respect this."

(3) A further memorial from the above sets forth. That it had been previously determined that Kansuh Province should be entitled to sixty graduateships at this year's triennial examination in Shan-si; subsequently the unsettled condition of the borders rendering it difficult for the can-

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didates to find their way to Shan-si, it was decided that Tsau-sheng-ming, An-si-chen, Chan-si-ting and Cheu-hwa-cheu, four localities, should await the next examination, allowance being then made for their present loss. But this arrangement cannot come into full force, as several candidates from the towns in question have already passed certain points, and made their way to the Examination Hall. It would not be expedient to preclude those from the examination, and it will also be proper to except them from the law requiring a certain number of candidates from a certain Province, before literary degrees are opened to compilation. The fostering regard of the Government for border scholars will thereby be manifested. Orders have been issued accordingly.

21st Sept.—Edict. The Board of War represents that military officers should be removed from their native places in pursuance to old regulations, and prays that instructions may be allowed to be issued for changes in accordance. Military officers are invested with territorial power, and among the appointments recently made there are many officers who should be removed in order that the established rule be carried out and the growth of malpractices be stopped. In the ninth year of Our reign, second moon, the Board of War represented that in all Provinces that had become tranquilised orders had been issued to the various Governors to make the necessary changes. At present military measures in Shensi, Yunnan and Kweichow having been brought to a close, it also becomes necessary to enforce the law in those Provinces. The respective Governors-General are therefore hereby ordered to change the General and Brigadier-General in the two Provinces under their rule from one to the other. Majors my remain within 500 *li* from their native town, and captains can retain command in their own districts. In regard to the other changes suggested as necessary to carry out established regulations within each Province, let these be followed with respect to the higher officers, having full appointments, and who have not yet been admitted to an audience. Let a memorial be made begging that, and setting forth how they may be admitted at the capital in rotation. Respect this.

(2) A memorial from the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs deals with movements and promotions of certain officials.

(3) General Chan-shun reports. The Taotai of Tientsin had represented that the country to the north-west of China was unsettled, and that first-class rifles were urgently required to assist in the work of quelling and keeping order. One hundred and twenty double-barrel guns had accordingly been obtained by contribution, with ten thousand caps, and the same handed over to a Wei-yuen to be sent on to Ou-li-ya-sou-tai. The Imperial sanction is requested to reward the said Taotai. The will of the Throne is separately recorded.

22nd Sept.—An Imperial Edict makes certain changes in the appointment of Literary examiners.

(2) The Footai of Kwangsi reports to the throne. The practice of illicit coinage has been for some time rife on the borders of Kwangsi and Kwangtung, and the Footai, in view of the inconvenience thereby arising to the people, had taken rigorous measures to stop the practice; to which end he had instructed the various officials to prohibit the mixing of small coin with Government *cash*. On the seventh day of the fourth moon, a countryman entered the Provincial town of Kweilin 桂林 to dispose of his Rice. Having sold his produce, he was obstinately firm in his determination not to receive spurious *cash*. A street row ensued, and the case was brought before the Che-foo. While examination was going on, a set of rascals, five in number, who harboured hatred for the free use made by the magistrate of the bamboo on previous occasions, with certain prisoners, rushed into the public court and created a disturbance. The popular feeling was thereby excited, and the proceedings of the court abruptly closed. Soldiery were at once ordered to the scene, and the Footai, being informed of the uproar, also repaired thither with assistance; in the meantime, the Yamun drum had been smashed in, the railings broken down, and, when the Magistrate shouted to the delinquents, ordering them to desist, they went so far as to throw stones at him; being screened by the Yamen runners he fortunately escaped, but the latter were all more or less wounded. Six of the disturbers were at once seized, but beyond this further seizures were impracticable, for the spectators had all more or less joined in the discord, and no actual proof of individual guilt could be produced. A trial of the prisoners was made, and by order from Prince Kung the six men suffered the penalty of their crime on the execution ground. A notice was further posted about the town setting forth the enormity of their guilt, with its penalty, as a warning to refractory people. The report closes with remarks on the unruly conduct of the people, which is

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imputed to the memory of acts during the late rebellion, and energetic measures are advocated to curb their still latent disregard for rule and order.

23rd Sept.—A memorial by the Viceroy of the Two Kiang sets forth the services of a late Secretary of one of the Boards who died in retirement, and prays that his loyalty to the throne be suitably commemorated.

(2) Wan-ting-li and Peng-tsu-hien report on the condition of Shun-tien foo (greater part of Chihli). They beg that early measures be taken to relieve sufferers by the recent floods, and that a portion of the tribute grain be detained and appropriated to the purpose. The districts in the South, East and West of Shun-tien have for successive years suffered from inundation, and Imperial bounty has repeatedly been displayed, enabling the people by the assistance of rice and money to tide over their distress. In the early part of the spring, rain and sunshine alternated seasonably. High lands had all yielded a plentiful crop of wheat, and planting and sewing had gone on favorably in the field generally. In the middle decade of the sixth moon, a penetrating rain fell; but from this time dark clouds hovered low, and for days and nights consecutively the rains fell without ceasing. The mountain waters poured down; the river and streams rose, and their surcharged waters overflowed the plains and covered the postal roads, in so much that other routes had to be chosen to convey the more important despatches. Many houses were besides washed away, and considerable loss of life ensued. The Memorialists at once issued orders to the respective officials of the different districts, to report accurately on the extent of the disasters. From their accounts it appears that Wan-an is totally submerged, and that in the other districts the damage varies in its extent, from one hundred to several tens of villages. But communication being intercepted, the various Tipsos are behind time in their reports, and the officials are unable to make a true examination. Instructions have been issued to take energetic action in draining off the accumulated waters, and to investigate and report on the exact amount of damage and short gatherings of harvests.

The Imperial will as to relieving distress, has been elsewhere notified.

24th Sept.—An Imperial edict replies to a memorial reporting the flooding of Yong-shun Foo in Hunan. The rush of water made a gap of several chang in width in the wall. The city was flooded, and the Yamuns, Granaries, Prisons, and habitations generally, all more or less washed to the ground. In the surrounding country, also, much life and property were lost. The request as to affording relief is acceded to.

(2) An accusation is made against the magistrate of An-yih, in Shansi, of appropriating public funds, deducting money from salaries and raising taxes on carts, the list finishing with imprisonment to death of two men. The Imperial will has been recorded.

(3) A Censor Tsung-shi reports a clerk for arrogating to himself power and for illegally increasing the taxes. A licenciate of Yang-kau Hien in Shansi, aged 62, repaired to the Censorate with the following statement. Last year at the spring collection of Taxes, the Hien issued a notice that for every Tael of Silver according to Tariff, two mace and one half more would have to be paid (for local expenses). The people were willing to obey, but the Clerks deluded their superior and extorted from the people an addition of 3 mace two cand.; moreover, in calculating *cash* to the tael they did not adhere to the market price. The informant remonstrated and at the instigation of the extortioners, a warrant for his apprehension was issued and he was nearly beaten to death while in custody. Some of the taxpayers were further compelled by torture to bear false witness against the informant, who was finally forced to give bond for payment of the tax as first demanded. The literati appealed to the Che-foo, who met their appeal by an order that the 3 mace 2 cand. extra should be collected, requesting at the same time from his superior that permission be granted for depriving the informant of his literary diploma. The informant, with others of the literati, referred the case to the Foo-tai, who ordered the Che-foo of Ta-tung to look into the matter. A decision was given that silver has a fixed value, while *cash* changes. According to law an excess in silver is allowed of one mace 8 cand.(?) The Clerks however were not governed by this decision; and continued, as by secret permission, their former oppressions. The Censor concludes his petition by stating that the informant had stated under oath that he had lodged four complaints with his own Chufoo, one with the Tautai, and at the Examiners' and Futai's Yamuns he had respectively laid his plaint twice at each, and they had neither of them had the accused brought before them for trial.—The Imperial will has been notified.

25th Sept.—(1) An Imperial Edict degrading and dismissing various officials.

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(2 and 3) Memorials, one concerning a murder in Szechuen, and the other relating to litigation relative to the repairing of certain River Banks in Hu-peh.

26th Sept.—An Imperial Edict appoints various Examiners to their posts.

(2) Another Edict states. The Minister Wang Yuh-chieh petitions, praying that future judgment on Robbers be made according to the original law. The Ministers of the Inner Council are hereby instructed to confer with the Board of Punishment, and with the assistance of a code previously laid before the Throne by that Board, to draw out a fresh code and submit it in due course.—Respect this.

(3) Tso Tsung-tang petitions, recommending that a new "Hsien" be established in the western part of Kan-suh. The difficulties arising from the seats of Government being too distant are set forth; and in a Province where the Mohamedan and Chinese elements clash, the desirability of maintaining a strong hold over the people is increased. Mohamedan Priests are represented to make the pretext of preaching a means to engross power amongst the people; and unless changes are made, Mandarins will become a nonentity.—The Board is ordered to consult and report.

Sept. 27th.—The Sacrificial Board petitions that the Prince Foo may be deputed to offer the usual sacrifices at the Fung-tëen-teen Ancestral Temple, on the 9th of the month. (30th Sept.)

(2) Hoo Kea-yuh (胡家玉) President of the Board of Censors presents a petition containing minute information respecting exorbitant and unlawful taxation imposed by the officials in the province of Keang-se, and praying His Majesty to issue orders to the Board of Revenue to investigate the matter, in order that the laws may be upheld, and liberality extended to the people. The law of this province is that one additional mace be paid in with every ounce of silver, in order to make up the deficiency in weight, whereas the aforesaid officials now demand *four* mace additional, which proceeding is contrary to established law, and inflicts indescribable injury upon the people.—His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

28th.—Duke Heun having performed the usual sacrifices at the White Dragon Pool, has returned to Peking and greeted His Majesty.

(2) An Edict has been issued to the following effect. Shen Mow-kheen (單懋謙) memorializes that his leave of absence has expired, but his health is not yet restored; and he prays that We may permit him to retire from office. We grant the petitioner a further furlough of two months, during which period he may attend to his health without anxiety. There is no necessity that he should resign his appointment altogether. Respect this.

(3) Ma Chung, General of Division, is permitted to retire from the service in consequence of ill-health.

29th.—The following Edict has been issued. Tsin Yuh-ying (岑毓英) has petitioned for leave to erect a temple in honour of a former Viceroy of Yun-nan and Kwei-chow, named Laou Tsung-kwang, who gained signal victories over the Rebels, and was much beloved by the people. We grant the petition, and appoint that the deceased officer be sacrificed to in Spring and Autumn, in order to make known his fidelity. Respect this.

30th.—To-morrow the Emperor will pass through the King-yun-mun gate to the Fung-seen-tëen Temple to worship. His Majesty will then proceed to the Show-hwang-tëen Temple for the same purpose, and will afterwards return to the Palace. Let all preparations be completed at 6 o'clock a.m.

(2) Edict. On a former occasion Too-hing-ah and others petitioned that the temple at the Yung-ling Mausolea might be repaired, and prayed Us to select an auspicious day for the removal of the divine tablets. We therefore issued orders to the Astronomical Board, to choose a propitious day in the 7th month for the purpose mentioned. According to the memorial of Too-hing-ah just received, the Astronomical Board selected the 28th day of the 7th month (Sept. 19th), but that day being now past, the petitioner prays that another day may be selected. We again order the Astronomical Board to select a propitious day in the 9th month (Oct. to Nov.) and to inform Too-hing-ah which day they have appointed, in order that he may remove the tablets. The notification of the first day chosen by the Astronomical Board was dispatched on the 20th of the 7th month, and the distance which the messenger had to travel is only 400 *le*; why then was it not delivered to us until the 28th of that month? Where could the messenger have loitered? We command Too-hing-ah to examine into this matter, and to report, in order that the delinquent may be punished.

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(3) Ying Yuen (英元) and others memorialize the Emperor. Wang Tih-sin, an inhabitant of the District of Kwei, in the Department of Tung-chang and Province of Shan-tung, has given information to the following effect. The plaintiff's father has been killed by a man named Chow-tseih and his associates. These latter stole some grain which the deceased had stored up, and the latter demanding it back, they set upon him and murdered him. The plaintiff being unable to get any redress from the local authorities, has appealed to Peking, and prays the Emperor graciously to issue orders that the case be properly investigated.

(4) The same official presents a memorial to the following effect. The uncle of Sun Tong-hwuy, of the District of Seun in the province of Honan, has been murdered by a person named Leang-koo. The deceased was a cloth merchant, and was constantly from home. His wife took advantage of his absence to lead an irregular life, and this coming to the ears of her husband, she ran away from him, and begged her brother Leang-koo to bring about a reconciliation. The brother, in consequence, enticed the deceased to his house, where the whole family attacked and murdered him. The plaintiff appeals to the Emperor, as he cannot get redress from the local officials.

October 1st.—The subjects for themes at the present year's examination for the second degree (舉人), at Peking, are selected from the Four Books, and are as follows; 1° Confucius said; with regard to Hwuy, during the entire space of three months his mind harboured nothing contrary to Benevolence." *Chung Yung*, 2° "Those who govern the Families and states of the Empire, should observe the Nine Rules; and the means by which these are put in practice is by perfect sincerity." *Chung Yung*. 3° "Mencius said; The people have this common saying. 'The Empire, the States, and the Families.' The States are the foundation of the Empire, and the Families are the foundation of the States. The root of each Family is the individual at the head of it." *Mang-tsze*.

(2) Yin Tsaou-yung (殷兆鏞) memorializes, giving a list of repairs necessary to be made at the Imperial Mausolea, and praying the Emperor to appoint a day for the commencement of the works. —His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

(3) Ting Paou-ching (丁寶楨) Junior Guardian to the Heir Apparent, and Deputy Governor of Shan-tung, kneels and petitions. Some time ago the petitioner sent an official to Kwang-se to oversee the building of fourteen war junks. These vessels have now been completed, and are lying off the Customs Barrier in the district of Le-tsin. The petitioner states that there is no business of importance at present requiring his attention at his Yamun, and prays for leave to go and inspect them.

2nd.—Paou Seun (寶珣) kneels and petitions. The petitioner was seized with severe illness some time ago, while travelling, and the Emperor gave him one month's leave of absence in consequence. The month has now nearly expired, and his medical attendant pronounces him to be still unfit for travelling. The petitioner therefore prays for leave to resign his office.—His Majesty defers reply.

(2) The Censor, Chang-Yung, (張雲) complains that the proper officers neglect their duty with regard to the distribution of rice amongst the sufferers from the floods around Peking, and prays that the gentry of each district may be ordered by His Majesty to take the matter in hand. —The Emperor replies that the petition is recorded.

3rd.—The Prince Seun and others report that they have duly searched the persons of the students who have presented themselves for the second examination.

(2) Le Hō-neen presents a supplementary petition on behalf of the Salt Commissioner in Fokeen province. The Emperor has graciously appointed this officer Commissioner of Justice for the province of Shen-se, but, as several business matters in his Yamun require attention, and as he is also now acting as Superintendent of Students, the petitioner prays that he may be allowed to remain at his present post for two months longer. His Majesty grants the petition.

4th.—An Imperial Edict degrades a General of Division at Canton to the rank of Brigadier, in consequence of incapacity, and appoints another officer in his place.

(2) Wang Wān-chaou (王文韶) Deputy Governor of Hoo-nan, petitions against any further posthumous honours being conferred upon the late District Magistrate of Sny-ning. Hereditary rank of the eighth degree has already been conferred upon the deceased officer's descendants, and temples have been erected to his hon-

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our.—His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the petition.

(3) Yih Yung (奕榕) presents a supplementary petition on behalf of an assistant official at Keih-lin who has been successful in apprehending and executing several rebels, and prays His Majesty to allow him to wear a peacock's feather as a reward for his services.

5th.—Tsenen Khing, a President of the Board of Punishments, and a member of the Grand Secretariat, with others, petition His Majesty to adopt measures for the revision of the present practice regarding the punishment of Rebels. According to the ancient code of laws, a difference in the degree of punishment inflicted was made between the head rebels and their followers. Afterwards, however, in consequence of the great increase in the number of these banditti, all those who were arrested were alike condemned to death. The petitioners pray that, as these robbers have now considerably decreased in number, the old distinction in the punishment of leaders and followers may be reverted to.

Oct. 6th.—The Palace Board pray the Emperor to appoint a high official to perform the sacrifices to the Yellow Wood god. His Majesty has appointed Sze-tsăng.

(2) An Imperial Edict hands over a Commander-in-chief to the Board of Punishments, for petitioning the Emperor to confer honours on certain officers after the time appointed for bestowing such favours had expired.

7th.—Liew Chang-yew (劉長佑), Deputy Governor of Kwang-se, kneels and memorializes to the effect that he has instructed Pwan Sze-shŭh, the official messenger from the State of Yue-nan (Annam) and his attendants, to proceed to Peking on the 12th day of the 6th month, to seek an audience from the Emperor. Observing that the party had not brought much clothing with them, the Memorialist according to ancient custom gave them embroidered Court dresses, gauze, fine silk, single and lined garments, wadded cotton garments, and furs, to use on the journey, as a token of the Imperial benevolence towards them. Officers have also been sent with the party to conduct them in safety to Peking, where they should arrive during the 8th month.—His Majesty notifies receipt of the Memorial.

8th.—The Governor-General of Hoo-kwang (i.e. Hoo-nan and Hoo-pih), and the Deputy-Governor of Hoo-pih, petition that the District Magistrates of Tsung-yang and Hwang-gan may be rewarded for their diligence in collecting the Imperial Grain Tax in each year when due, and the petitioners pray His Majesty to grant the threefold record of their names. The Emperor refers the matter to the proper Board.

9th.—Chang Ke-kwang (張其光) returns thanks to the Emperor for his appointment as General of Division at Formosa.

Oct. 10th.—Chin Yuh-ying (岑毓英) presents a supplementary petition. In the 7th year of the reign of the Emperor Heen-fung, the rebels congregated in great numbers in the province of Yunnan, and the then viceroy named Hăng-chun, together with his wife, committed suicide, through vexation. The Deputy-Governor and others laid the case before the Emperor at the time it occurred. According to information recently received by the petitioner from the resident gentry, the deceased viceroy was, in all things, upright, and careful, and free from covetousness. In the 6th year of the reign of Heen-fung, he led out his troops to attack the rebels at Kwei-chow, but on his departure, the rebels collecting in great force in Yunnan, he led his forces back again towards that province, driving the enemy before him along the line of march. Before he had completely destroyed these insurgents, the rebels from Kheuh-keang and the surrounding places returned to Yunnan on the 21st day of the intercalary 5th month of the 7th year, so that he could not defend the province. The rebels burnt the suburbs of the capital city and almost annihilated the inhabitants, but the viceroy bravely led his troops to the attack. Arrived at the south gate, he there met the various officials, who advised him to retreat, and he accordingly returned in disgust and vexation to his Yamun. His wife laying down principles of propriety, rebuked him for his conduct, after which they both hanged themselves. The petitioner prays the Emperor to confer marks of distinction upon the deceased viceroy and his wife. His Majesty grants the petition.

(2) The same Official memorializes to the effect that the superintendent of the Imperial Granaries at Yunnan desires an audience of the Emperor. When His Majesty, on a former occasion, granted him an audience, he could not come to Peking as the province was then in a disturbed state.

(3) The same Official petitions for leave to erect a temple in honour of Laou Tsung-

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kwang (勞崇光) a former Viceroy of Yunnan, who, according to information received from the resident gentry, greatly distinguished himself in engagements with the rebels. His Majesty replies that the petition is recorded.

Oct. 11th.—Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) presents a supplementary petition on behalf of an unemployed District Magistrate, and prays the Emperor to grant him an appointment in consequence of his great abilities. His Majesty refers the case to the Board of Official Appointments.

(2) Yang Chang-seun (楊昌濬) presents a supplementary petition, praying that the proper Board may be ordered to investigate the conduct of the Gaoler in the District of Fung-hwa, through whose carelessness a prisoner escaped and murdered three persons who were sent to re-arrest him. The conduct of the District Magistrate in this matter should also be inquired into. His Majesty grants the petition.

(3) The same official memorializes the Emperor to the effect that, having tried an unemployed prefect for one year, he finds that officer to be capable of conducting the business of an arduous post, and he prays the Emperor to appoint the candidate prefect in the province of Chĕ-keang. His Majesty refers the case to the Board of Appointments.

(4) Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) petitions that the District Magistrate of Hokĕen may be transferred to Tien-tsin, and the Magistrate of the latter place be sent to Ho-keen as he is incompetent to discharge the duties of his present post at Tientsin. His Majesty refers the matter to the Board of Appointments.

Oct. 12th.—The post of District Magistrate of Kea, in Honan, is vacant in consequence of the death of the ex-Magistrate's parent. The District Magistrates of Tung-kwan in Shensi, and of Ling-yih in Shantung, have retired from office in consequence of a like calamity.

(2) An Imperial Edict is issued granting the petition of Le Tsung-he, that Tsĕng Kwŏh-fan's (曾國藩) tablet be placed in the Temples of Renowned Statesmen. His Majesty commands that a tablet be placed in the temple at Keang-ning prefecture, and also in those of the Keang-ning and Shang-yuen Districts.

(3) The Viceroy of Hoo-kwang, and the Deputy Governor of Hoo-pih, pray the Emperor to grant leave of absence to the Superintendent of Granaries at the latter place, who is suffering from ill health induced by the heat and dampness of the climate. His Majesty has referred the case to the Board of Appointments.

(4) Le Hung-chang (李鴻章) presents a supplementary petition that four officers be sent to Koo-pih-kow to purchase 350 horses for the troops, a large number of the last supply purchased being too weak for active service. The petitioner prays that the proper Board be ordered to furnish the four officers with passports, and that the Superintendent of Customs at Koo-pih-kow be instructed, according to law, to remit the usual tax. His Majesty grants the petition.

Oct. 13th—The Head Examiner and Prime Minister, Tseuen (全), wishes peace to the Emperor, and presents a list of seven members of the Imperial Household who have passed the Examination for the second degree (舉人).—The Board of Rites and Ceremonies petitions the Emperor to inform them on what day the Examinations at the Paou-hoo-teen Hall should take place. His Majesty appoints the 25th (Oct. 16th) for that purpose.—To-morrow, the Emperor goes to the Temple of Longevity to worship. Let all be prepared at 6 o'clock A.M.

(2) An Edict is issued granting posthumous honours to Lo Chaou-khing (李昭慶), Superintendent of the Salt Trade, in consequence of his energy displayed in engagements with the rebels.

(3) Shwny-lin (瑞麟) Grand Secretary at the Wăn-hwa-teen Hall, and Viceroy of the Two Kwang, together with Chang Chaou-tung (張兆棟), Deputy-Governor of Canton, petition that Chow Che-liu, District Magistrate of Lo-chang, may be deprived of his office, in consequence of his neglect to arrest a culprit who has committed several murders. The petitioners pray that the Magistrate may be permitted to retain his post, and that a further inquiry be made into his conduct if he does not succeed in arresting the murderer during the limit of one year. His Majesty grants the petition.

(4). Wang Wan-chou (王文韶), Deputy-Governor of Hoo-nan, petitions that a slight alteration may be made in the law respecting the separation of members of one family amongst officials employed outside cities, such as grandfathers and grandsons, fathers and sons, in order to maintain the importance of the various

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degrees of relationship. As the law at present stands with regard to the relationships, if both officers employed in the same District are of unequal rank, then the relative of lower rank must be ordered to retire from the District; but, if both are of the same rank, then the grandfather must order the grandson to retire, or the father the son; proper regard being thus shown for filial duty. The petitioners pray that the first clause in this law, which relates to relatives who are not of equal rank be altered, because, as it now stands, it permits the grandson or son, if of higher rank, to order the grandfather or father to retire from a district in which both are in office; such permission being contrary to the rules of filial piety. His Majesty refers the matter to the Board of Appointments.

Oct. 14th.—A petition has been presented from the office of the Imperial Guards, praying the Emperor to appoint Imperial Overseers of the Students during the examinations at the Paou-ho-teen Hall. His Majesty has appointed Prince Chun and nine others.

(2) Yen-heu (廷煦) returns thanks to the Emperor for His Majesty's bounty, in consequence of his son having passed the examination for the second degree.

(3) Le Hŏ-neen (李鶴年) an officer of the first degree and Viceroy of Fuh-keen and Chĕ-keang provinces, petitions that Heu Chun-fang may be appointed Captain in the corps of the Deputy-Governor of Chĕ-keang, to succeed Wang Ping-chung, who has caused a vacancy by his illness and death. The candidate is young, being only 28 years of age, and is very courageous. His Majesty refers the case to the Board of War.

(4) Chang Shoo-shing (張樹聲) Deputy-Governor of Keang-soo, petitions the Emperor to issue orders to the Board of Appointments, not to send any more Expectant Officials into his province, as there are already more candidates there than in any other province, and it is impossible to assign posts to them all. His Majesty grants the petition.

15th.—Tsaou Kih-chung (曹克忠) returns thanks for his appointment as Acting General-in-chief in the province of Kan-suh.

(2) Ching Wän-ping (程文炳) has been recently appointed Commander-in-chief for the defence of Kew-keang (九江.) He returns thanks to the Emperor, and prays His Majesty to allow him to come to Peking for an audience. The Emperor orders him to come.

(3) Ying-han (英翰) presents a supplementary petition recommending Chow Tih-leang, as an Official possessing intelligence and talent, for the post of Deputy prefect at Choo-chow, the present Deputy prefect being obliged to retire from office in consequence of the death of his father. His Majesty grants the appointment.

(4) The same official petitions on behalf of Le Heen-tseŏ (李顯爵), praying the Emperor to appoint him to the next vacancy as General-in-chief. The candidate is a native of the District of Shan-ching, in the province of Keang-nan (? Ho-nan), and his real surname is Fang (方). He has served from his youth in the Cantonment commanded by Le Shu-chung (李世忠) and he took that officer's surname Le (李). As the descendants of the Fang family are now but few in number, the petitioner prays the Emperor to allow the candidate to resume his own name. His Majesty refers the entire matter to the Board of War.

16th.—The Board of Works petition the Emperor to appoint an Overseer of the repairs on the Imperial Road leading to the Western Mausolea. His Majesty appoints Nuh-jin.

(2) Le Hŏ-neen (李鶴年) and others present a supplementary petition, praying the Emperor to issue orders that Choo Shing-woo Acting District Magistrate at Chang-ting, and Khew Seih-chang, Acting District Magistrate of Kwei-hwa, be handed over to the proper Board for punishment, for allowing a prisoner to escape. On the 8th day of the 12th month of last year, while the escort were conducting the prisoner to Lo-khe in the District of Kwei-hwa, darkness coming on and preventing them from proceeding further, the party stopped for the night at a temple dedicated to the gods of the District, which stood by the roadside. At the fourth watch (1 to 3 a.m.) very heavy rain fell, accompanied with much wind, and the prisoner seeing his guard asleep broke off his handcuffs and fetters, and escaped. As soon as the soldiers discovered this they set out in pursuit, but neither shadow nor footstep of the criminal could be discovered. All this was owing to the carelessness of the aforesaid District Magistrates. His Majesty commands that the two Officials be handed

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over to the proper Board, for a strict investigation of their case.

(3) The same Official, together with the Deputy Governor of Fuh-keen, petition the Emperor to deprive a District Magistrate and two military Officers of their rank, and to allow them the space of two months to arrest certain criminals. In consequence of the carelessness of these Officials, a band of thieves entered the capital city of the District of Tsin-keang on the night of the 4th of the 1st month of the present year, and plundered a pawnbroker's shop. His Majesty grants the petition.

(4) The Deputy Governor of Ho-nan petitions the Emperor to order the District Magistrate of Shang-ching to remain in the province and learn the duties of his office, of which he is at present ignorant. His Majesty grants the petition.

17th.—Ching-twan (誠端) has offered sacrifice at the Ming-ling Mausoleu, and having returned to Peking has wished peace to the Emperor.

(2) Tsae-tsëen (載遷), Tsae-tsan (載燦), and King-lin (景霖) petition that Kwang-tae, a member of the Court of the Imperial Household, may be appointed to the rank of Assistant Captain-General in the Flank Division; and that E-meen, a Secretary of the Board of Works, be promoted to the Third Rank, as both these Officials have presented 300 sets of railings for the divine roads leading to the tombs of the Emperors Shun-che, Kang-he, and Keen-lung. His Majesty grants the petition.

18th.—An Edict is issued handing over Yang Hung-teen, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the proper Board for trial, on a charge of embezzlement.

(2) Another Edict promotes Tsung-le (崇禮) to the post of Lieutenant-General of Bannermen, for providing his troops with lances, guns, and other munitions of war at his own expense when he was Superintendent of the Yue-hae-kwan Customs' Barrier.

(3) Woo Tang (吳棠) an Officer of the First Rank, and Governor General of the Province of Szechuen, kneels and petitions the Emperor to allow two Officials of the rank of Taou-tae, two District Magistrates, two Prefects, and one Assistant Prefect, to be entrusted with arduous posts, in consequence of their services and their talents for business, exhibited during their year of probation. His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of Official Appointments.

19th.—The Sacrificial Board petitions the Emperor to appoint another dispenser of the meat, &c., offered in sacrifice. His Majesty has appointed Tsa-hang-ah.

(2) Le Hō-neen (李鶴年) an Officer of the First Rank, and Governor-General of Fuh-keen and Chē-keang Provinces, kneels and petitions the Emperor to appoint Loo Ching-kin Assistant General at Cha-poo, in the Province of Chē-keang, as the petitioner finds on examination that the candidate is a man of honour, and courageous, and possesses the talents requisite for that office. His Majesty refers the petition to the Board of War.

(3) The same official, together with Wang Kae-tae, Deputy Governor of Fuh-keën, kneel and petition the Emperor on behalf of some shipwrecked barbarians from Lew-kew, nine in all. The petitioners pray His Majesty to relieve the present wants of these sailors, and to give them permission to return to their own country in one of their tribute junks. These shipwrecked sailors set out from their own country in a small sea-going vessel, with a cargo of grain for the island of Tae-ping-shan. On the first day of the fourth month of the present year, they sailed from that island to return home, but, meeting with a severe gale, they were driven upon the coast of Formosa, and their junk was wrecked, while the crew, like ducks upon water, swam to shore. The petitioners seeing their distress, gave each of these sailors a catty of rice daily, with six cash to buy salt and vegetables; and, on their embarking for their own country, they are to receive provisions for one month, and the other necessaries ordered by law in such cases. A correct account of the entire expenditure will be forwarded to the Emperor. His Majesty acknowledges the receipt of the memorial.

(4) Chaou Hang-yu (邵亨豫) presents a supplementary petition, praying the Emperor to appoint San-show as Acting Taou-tae of Se-gan in Shen-se, as the present Taou-tae, having lost his parent lately, retires from office. The Taou-tae himself is still employed in the Cantonment to which he is attached. His Majesty acknowledges receipt.

20th.—An Imperial Decree orders that 800 piculs of millet be granted to the congee kitchens at Poo-tse-tang and Kung-tih-lin, in consequence of the excessive rain which has fallen this year in the pro-

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vince of Chili. The floods have interfered with the harvest, and the inhabitants find it difficult to gain a livelihood. These congee kitchens must be reopened without delay. Respect this.

(2) Woo-tang (吳棠) presents a supplementary petition, praying the Emperor to degrade a Colonel named Hwang Tih-yaou from his rank. This officer neglected to fulfil his duty and come to Peking for an audience; he also engaged in a scolding match with the former Acting Sub-Prefect of Sung-pwan; and he seized and beat that official on a public occasion, the bystanders advising and separating the combatants. Such conduct proves the Colonel to be an utterly worthless fellow, and that there is no hope of his reformation. His Majesty commands that the culprit be degraded from office.

Oct. 20th.—(3) Chang-shun (長順) and two others kneel and return thanks to the Emperor for appointing Seh-tih-pa-chă-urh to the post of Governor General and Commander-in-chief of the forces at Kheh-urh-kheh-chă-să-kheh-thoo-han-poo (in outer Mongolia), and they pray that this newly appointed Officer may be permitted to perform the usual ceremony of worshipping the Emperor at the temple of Wan-show, in the city of Wŏn-la-ya-soo-tae, as he dreads coming to Peking, never having had small-pox. His Majesty acknowledges receipt.

21st.—Ying-ynen (英元) a President of the Board of Censors, and member of the Imperial Household, with others kneel and petition. According to the evidence of the widow Leang, who resides in the District of Keang-poo, in the Province of Keang-soo, her husband Leang Ta-yew was an expectant District Magistrate, with the rank of Assistant Prefect, and was decorated with a peacock's feather. Ting Yu-how, with several accomplices, bribed the police runners in the Prefect's office, who, seizing the husband, threw him into prison, where he shortly afterwards died. The deceased held a military appointment in the Province of Shang-tung, which he resigned in the eighth year of the present reign, in consequence of the death of one of his parents. In the following year the District Magistrate of Keang-poo ordered him to survey that district, when he discovered two pieces of land on which no tax was paid, through the fraudulence of the owners; whereupon, Ting Yu-how and the other defaulters were seized with fear lest their lands should also be inspected. His Majesty is prayed to issue orders that the case be investigated, and replies that the petition is recorded.

(2) Too-hing-ah (都興阿), Tsing-khae (清凱) and Kung-thang (恭鏜) kneel and petition that Khing-lin, Captain in a Banner Corps at Seaou-hih-shen, and Yu Wan-fung Acting Magistrate in the District of Kwang-ning, be deprived of their rank, and allowed a limit of three months to arrest certain thieves. In consequence of the carelessness of these Officers, three mounted robbers, on the 25th day of the intercalary sixth month, attacked the Corean envoy as he was passing through Kin-kea-kow, near the Seaou-hih mountain, and plundered him of the money which he had received for his travelling expenses; of his silk and cotton clothes; and other property. His Majesty grants the petition.

Oct. 22nd.—Le Tsung-he (李宗羲) memorializes to the effect that Le Sin-yen, who has been appointed General of Division at Hwang-ngan, in the Province of Chĕ-keang, set out for his post on the 2nd day of the seventh month. His delay hitherto has been caused by the pressure of his duties in connection with the naval force at Tae-hoo. The Governor-General of the Province of Chĕ-keang has urged him to occupy his post at once. His Majesty acknowledges receipt.

(2) The same Official petitions that Ching Tsaou-jon, Assistant Overseer of Iron Machinery at the Arsenal at Shanghai, and expectant Prefect, may be permitted to return to his post. In the sixth month of the present year, this Official retired from the public service in consequence of the death of his father; but his superior Officer cannot carry on his duties alone.—His Majesty grants the petition.

23rd.—The same official, together with the Deputy-Governor of Keang-soo, petitions the Emperor to bestow some mark of commiseration on Le Chaou-khing, a deceased Superintendent of the Salt Trade. The deceased was Le Hung-chang's brother, and his modesty prevented him from making known his own meritorious services against the rebels. Also, as the deceased was his brother, Le Hung-chang himself could not make known his relative's merits in this respect. In the 5th month of the present year the deceased came to Peking to obtain an audience of the Emperor. In consequence of the fatigue which he formerly incurred in the Cantonments in which he served, he contracted a disease which again attacked him on the 3rd

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of the sixth month, in consequence of which he died at Le Hung-chang's Yamun, to the great grief of the petitioners. His Majesty will reply.

(2) Too-hing-ah (都興阿) prays the Emperor to appoint an Officer to superintend removals from the palace, and to oversee the Imperial schools, as the former officer who had charge of these departments has been promoted to be Captain-General at Jĕ-ho. His Majesty has now appointed two officials.

Oct. 24th.—Edict.—Cheang-tae is appointed Acting Tu-t'ung of the Chinese division of the Bordered-Blue Banner.

(2) Memorial. Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Shense and Kansuh, addresses the throne on the arrears in Extra Military Competitions. One has taken place this year, and two now remain. The twenty extra appointments granted to celebrate the Imperial Wedding have been distributed at this year's examination.—Rescript: "Noted."

(3) The Chief Authories at Urga recommend for honours the military officers detached from Heuen-hwa-foo (in Chihli) and Koo-peh-kow, who have drilled the Mongol troops at Urga for the last three years.—Rescript: Accorded. Let the High Provincial Authorities be called on to furnish a list of those who should be rewarded for exertions in conveying the Military Funds to that distant Post.

(4) From the same (Supplementary). Some personal recommendations.—Rescript: "Seen."

Oct. 25th.—Cheang-t'ae returned thanks for his appointment of yesterday. The new Brigadier of Wenchow took his parting instructions.

(1) and (2) Edict.—Military appointments in Yunnan.

(3) Li Hung-chang, in a memorial, suggests honours for Tê-shou, recently Superintendent of Imperial Factory at Soochow, who has contributed towards the relief of the inundated districts in Chihli. The total contributions by all persons were Tls. 44,232.350. Piculs (best) Rice 2,440. (at 2.50 per picul=Tls. 6,102.2) and other Rice, Piculs 4,932 (at 1.80=Tls. 1,878.5810); cotton quilted clothes pieces 71,065 (at Tls. 1 per piece)—Total in money value Tls. 130,278.1347. The above was contributed in 1872 and has been distributed as required. Tê shou has given in all 5,500 quilted suits. He has already received honours in respect of part of this contribution and cannot therefore be again promoted in the same way. The object of the present memorial is to have his liberality placed on record in the archives of the Neiy-woo-foo.—Rescript "Let this be done."

(4) From the same. Recommends for tablet to record their signal chastity, the widows of several literary men.

(5) and (6) From the same. Reports on the capabilities of officers who have undergone a year's probation.

October 26th.— (1) Edict. Appointing a High Commission to hear an appeal case.

(2) Memorial from Shau Hăng-yü, Governor of Shense, recommending to a vacant military office.

(3) From Yung-tseuen of the I-li Governing Board. (An enclosure.) Lo-pin, a Red-girdle, and formerly Viceroy of Shense and Kansuh, but degraded and condemned to service on the military frontier (on account of the Mahommedan Rebellion) is recommended for pardon and recall to Peking. It appears that since his degradation he served in the Seal-Office in I-li,—that he made a contribution (reported to the Throne) to the military chest of Tls. 10,000 in 1863, when the Mahommedan rising at San-ho-tao took place,—that on the recommendation of Ming-hsü, Tartar Commander-in-Chief in Kansuh, and of the present memorialist, the Throne in 1865 gave directions for Lo-pin's recall,—that Lo-pin purchased for his second son the position of Yuen-wae-lang for service in either odd or even months (clerk in one of the Government Boards; this put three or four thousand Taels into the Government Chest),—that Lo-pin and this son had a narrow escape for their lives, being taken prisoner by the Insurgents, and then rescued; and further that Lo-pin is over 80 years old. This in the memorialist's opinion forms a strong case for commiseration, and it is prayed that the father and son may be brought by Government stages to Peking.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Yamên take note."

(4) From the same. Details the steps he has taken to have the several Seals cut which are required by the separate Departments of his government.

27th.—Edicts (several) concurring in recommendations of the Boards for promotion or otherwise.

(2) Memorials. From Le Hung-chang Viceroy of Chihli.—The sanction of the Throne is requested for punishment of officials responsible for the escape of two criminals, condemned to beheading and strangulation respectively. Bribery is suspected in the case of such extraordinary negligence, and power is wanted to handle

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the suspected officials effectively.—Rescript has already appeared.

(3) Memorial from the President of the Nei-wu-fu, suggesting the appointment of an officer (either of a new man or of the present holder), to the post of Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Hang-chow. The present holder has been in office for two terms of one year each.—Rescript (appointing a new man) has already appeared.

(4) Memorials from the Grain Transport Superintendent Wên-ping, and from the late Acting Officer, detailing the date and the formalities of taking, and of handing over, respectively the seals of office.—Rescript: "Noted."

October 28th.—Edict. (1) Tu-hsing-ah and his colleagues having announced the completion of the repairs of certain temples, request that a propitious day be chosen on which to replace the Ancestral Tablets therein. We hereby direct the Astronomical Board to choose a day accordingly.

Memorial (2) Ch'üan-ch'ing 全慶, President of the Board of Punishment, and his colleagues, report the result of their investigations into the accusations of Censor Shên-hsi against Yang Hung-tien, a clerk of the Board of Revenue, for corruption. The Censor based his accusation solely on popular rumour, and on the alleged fact that Yang had come to Peking poor and now lived so ostentatiously as to incur the soubriquet of Revenue-Board-Councillor No. 7 (there being really only 6 of those high officials). The investigation was spread over two months, and the Board has had Yang, and all documents connected with cases which passed through Yang's hands, before them. There are a few cases which call for remark. One was that of a Chih Hsien who, after the period of mourning for a parent's death, had paid the fees necessary before being replaced on the roll for active service. There was no receipt for the fees as there should have been, appended to the Commission stating the Chih Hsien's place in the roll; nor did the amount appear in the body of the Commission itself. Yang has no explanation to offer of this irregularity. He states that the fee was paid not into his hands, but into the coffers of the Chih Hien's native Province. Other cases were of Yang's refusing to receive certain applications because they were made on days of the month not set apart for that kind of business. A custom had really arisen of receiving those documents on the days mentioned, but as Yang pointed out this custom had never received Imperial sanction.—The Rescript has already appeared.

29th.—Edicts approving of recommendations by the Board of Civil Office.

Memorial by Ch'ien Ting-ming, 錢鼎銘, Governor of Honan. He reports the discovery in Kai-fêng-foo of a gambling hell kept by an Expectant-Prefect named Wang Yüen-hsu. Wang is in enforced retirement from office in mourning for a parent's death, and employed his leisure in these nefarious proceedings. Another Expectant-Prefect named Ch'êng Tê-mon, had gambled with others of the official class in the hell and lost several thousand strings of cash, for which he gave a chit. When Wang presented the chit, they came to words and then grappled each other's queues. Ch'êng's foot slipped, and in falling he wounded his eye and temple. These wounds have been healed, but the facts disclosed are disgraceful. No respect for their own individual or official dignity has restrained these men, and they must be dealt with signally. The degradation from official rank is prayed for, of all those who were officials; some of them are subordinates of the Yellow River Superintendent, and he will himself report on these, with whose memorial indeed this is in identical terms. It is not known whether one Pi Hsing-fu, who is implicated, is of official rank. He will be specially reported on.—Rescript: "These officials are forthwith degraded. The rest of the memorial is approved."

Oct. 30th.—This Gazette is filled with a memorial from the Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekiang, and the Governor of Chekiang, detailing their reasons for a proposed re-arrangement of the district camps for the Extra-Banner Forces. The Board of War had approved of the changes in the officering of these Forces, but hesitated to concur in the changes of location without further explanations and plans. These are now afforded.—Rescript: "Let the Board of War report on this."

31st.—The Astronomical Board submitted for inspection a diagram of the coming Eclipse of the Moon.

(1) Edict.—An appointment to the Khalgan Superintendency.

(2) Memorial.—From Li Tsung-hsi (Viceroy of Nanking) Li K'uên-i, Governor of Kiangsi, and Li Wên-t'ien, Literary Chancellor, praying the favour of the Throne in increasing the number of successful candidates (civil and military) allowed to Kiangsi generally and its several districts in particular. The rule is that, for every ten

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thousand Taels contributed, one more literary (Keu-jen) and military Degree is conferred on the Province; for every Three thousand Taels, a Magistracy or Prefecture has an increase. A distinction is drawn between contributions given *without* and *with* stipulation for a recognition in this shape, the latter receiving an increase of not more than 10 extra Degrees, while the former, being dependent wholly on the generosity of the Throne, is not subject to any such limit. In the present instance a sum of Tls. 123,892 has to be acknowledged. —Rescript: "Let the Board report on this, and take custody of the attached vouchers."

(3) From Ch'ung-lun, Jung-lü, and others, report in detail the contribution by Ch'ung-li sometime Customs Superintendant (or Hoppo) at Canton, viz: two mortars, (or howitzers) and their appurtenances as follows: hollow shot 516; solid ditto, 112; copper caps, 7 boxes; matches, 2 cases; powder bags, two bundles; repeating rifles with bayonets 30, bullets 30,240; muskets 125. These have been received into the Imperial Armoury. This signal act of patriotism in contributing so valuable a present of war stores is brought to the Imperial notice.—The Rescript to this has already appeared.

November 1st.—(1) Edict. Li Han-ch'ang, Viceroy of Hu-Kuang, and the Governor of Hu-nan, report the suppression of a Guild-rising, and the arrest, examination and punishment of the leaders and conspicuous rebels. The rising took place in the Lin Hsiang Hsien district, in August of the present year, and resulted in brigandage. The brigands had the courage to resist the troops sent against them, but to no purpose, for their leaders and many others were taken, and the rest dispersed. The province is quiet at present, but as Hu-nan has so often suffered from these disturbances, we hereby direct Li and his colleagues to order their subordinates, military and civil, to make the most careful search after the remaining men implicated. The recommendations made for recognition of the energy put forth by certain officers, are referred to the Boards. Other recommendations are invited, but care must be taken that they are proper ones.

(2) Memorial. Chin Yü-ying, Governor of Yunnan, makes a long series of proposals for the re-arrangement of the Forces which are to keep the Province quiet. He reminds the Throne that, heretofore, after every occasion that called for the enlistment of Extra Banner Forces had passed over, the forces so formed were often made into a Naval Division, or stationed in a localised permanent camp, or else used as a moveable force for a district. He considers that fixed camps are necessary in Yunnan.—Rescript "Referred to the Board of War."

Nov. 2nd.—Edicts making appointments in Peking. Memorial from Yang Ch'ang-hsü, Governor of Chekiang, reporting on an officer after the year's probation.

(2) From the same (an enclosure). Reporting the appointment of an officer to perform the duties of Prefect of Kinhua-foo during the interim between the departure of the outgoing officer and the arrival of the new man from Peking.

(3) From Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung. Recommending that the magistrate of Tê-p'ing Hsien be appointed to T'êng Hsien, in the room of an officer recalled by the Governor for want of capacity. The Board of Civil Office would not confirm this change,—wished for explanations. These are now given. In the meantime T'êng Hsien has been long without a Magistrate. The Rescript refers the subject again to the Board of Civil Office.

Nov. 3rd.—Edict. On the report of Liu Chang-yu, Governor of Kuangsi, Chao Yüan-yin, Magistrate of Soü-ôu Hsien, is deprived of official rank for grossly unjust judgments pronounced by him, which have thrown the neighbourhood into confusion.

(2) Memorial from Wan-Ch'ing-li, and Pêng Tsu-hsien. They remind the Throne that it has been usual to open a rice-kitchen for the poor at the P'u-ch'i-tang at the Kuang-an Gate, the term running from the 15th of the 10th moon till spring. At first the amount issued from the Imperial granary was 300 piculs of small rice, this was increased seven years ago to 500 piculs, and the kitchen was opened a month earlier and shut a month later. They suggest that more will be wanted this year, on account of the distress from the inundations.—The Rescript has already appeared.

(3) From the Prefect of Shun-Tien-foo (Peking). He reports that he is about to be absent for a few days on a visit of inspection to the Grand Canal near T'ung-chow. Other officials will accompany him, and a full discussion will precede the recommendations they will make. This is occasioned by damages caused by the flooding of the rivers which feed the canal there. —Rescript has already appeared.

(4) From Wu-wei-shou, recently made commandant at Ning-hsia-chên in Kan-suh. He thanks the Throne for the appointment, and recounts his unmerited advancements up to this time.—Rescript: "Let him come to audience."

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4th Nov. (1) Edict. The Censors of examinations, Fu-k'uan and Yü Po-ch'uan have reported irregularities in the late examinations, in 1st 2nd and 3rd districts of Peking. As many as 31 papers have had numbers affixed to them which do not tally with the numbers which the Register of candidates shows should have been affixed. Also some papers of candidates whose papers as a whole had been rejected by the first readers, were found inserted among sets which had been approved for submission to the Chief Examiners. This is really irregular beyond all comparison, and we direct the High Officers who were deputed to superintend the examinations, to report to the Board of Punishment those officials who are guilty. How is it that the High Officials did not themselves hear of and report these facts? Let them discover the causes of the irregularities.

(2) Lin Chang-yu (Governor of Keangsi) has memorialized for the degradation of an assistant Magistrate, Wu Hao-jan, and others. Wu was indebted to a Magistrate in mourning retirement, Chou Wên-huan, for a loan of long-standing, and to repay this he engaged in private trading and evaded the *likin* tax on the goods,—an action like a speculator's on the market and not worthy of an official. Chou, out of spite, for he had no duties to fulfil of that sort, reported Wu's doings; and to make matters worse applied that the goods seized might be confiscated, and then handed over to him in satisfaction of the debt. The officer Yan, who seized the goods, made a highly improper report on the subject. Chou and Yang are hereby temporarily deprived of official rank for the purposes of the investigation, which must be thorough, to serve as a warning to all officials.

(3) Memorial from Shan Mowhsien, a Grand Secretary, on the Board of War. On the 27th September an Edict was issued in the following terms. "Fuh-ho having "had the daring to abuse and assault "Yung-ch'üan, inflicting several wounds, "for ordering him to start for his post, he "is handed over to the Board for severe "discipline, and Yung-ch'üan is directed "to see that Fuh-ho goes at once on his "journey." The question arises as to what is the appropriate discipline. The punishment for a brawl between officers not in actual tenure of office is "de-officialization for private offence." The law also lays down that any high officer ordered to military service in outlying dependencies and incurring censure, must be de-officialized; and in the terms of the judgment it must be noted whether the deprivation of rank is complete, with opportunity for recovering honour by service on the frontier on half pay, or whether the delinquent is degraded to the ranks absolutely. Fuh-ho was Secretary to the Govt. at Harpa-hot'ai, and a Fu-to-t'ung of the Bordered Blue Banner. He is liable to the punishment of "de-officialization for private offence." The Edict calls on the Board to deal out severe discipline. The Board has no power to increase the penalty for brawling, but as Fuh-ho has failed to obey the Edict ordering him to King-lien Garrison, he may be punished further as just mentioned, and the pleasure of the Throne is asked for.—Rescript has already appeared.

(4) From Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Shansi and Kansu, recommending posthumous honours to Hou Yün-têng, sometime Taotai of the Ning-Hsia Circuit.—The Rescript refers it to the Board of Civil Office.

5th.—(1) Edict. On the representation of the Prefect of Shun-tien-fu (Peking) that T'ung-chow and its neighbourhood has suffered severely from the floods, that the pressure on the rice kitchens will be very heavy and that it will consequently be necessary to open kitchens in the villages and city suburbs: We of our grace direct the issue of 1,000 piculs of 米 rice from the T'ung-chow granaries for distribution among the poor. The rest of the memorial is approved of, and the proper Board will take note thereof.

(2) Memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Kansu and Shansi, praying for posthumous honours on Chou K'ai-hsi, sometime Treasurer of Fuhkien.

(3) From Lin K'uên-i, Governor of Kiangsi, reports temporary arrangements necessitated by the death of the Prefect of Jao-chow.—Rescript: "Noted."

(4) From the same. Reports having detained Li Chih, to give his assistance as a first reader (of competing essays) during the Chü-jén (M.A.) examinations. Li, who was on his way to his post of Magistrate at Wan-nien Hsien, is himself an M.A., and well-fitted for the work. He will be sent on when the work is over.—Rescript: "Noted."

Nov. 6th.—(1) (Edict).—At the instance of Wan Ch'ing-le and his colleagues, congee-kitchens are established at six gates of the Tartar City and a grant of 972 piculs of rice is made for their support, as an addition to the surplus of 800 piculs remaining over from last year. The recom-

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mendations for a strict scrutiny from time to time of the manner in which the kitchens are conducted, are approved of.

(2) A grant of 1,000 piculs of rice is made to the Yüan-p'ing District for distribution to its poor.

(3) A long gazette of movements in the Civil Service.

(4) Memorial from Chin Yü-ying, Governor of Yunnan. (Drafted by Liu Yo-shao, the Viceroy). He sets forth the hardship that it would work to call on those scholars who had been selected to the degree of *Pa-kung* to go all the way to Peking (9,000 li) to view the Light (of the Emperor's countenance) as is proper under ordinary circumstances. The Province has been so long devastated—for 18 years—that, though now at peace, there is little wealth among any class. It is therefore prayed that a 火牌 *huo-p'ai* (Warrant for travelling at public expense) may issue to the *Pa-kungs* through the Judge and Treasurer, as in the case of those who have taken M.A. degrees. It is hoped that the country may so far recover at the next Pa-kung promotion that the usual course may be followed.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Board of Rites take note."

(5) From the same, announcing a temporary appointment on a death vacancy. Rescript has already appeared.

(6) From the Yunnan Authorities. They report that they have temporarily selected for the Pakung degree 15 scholars who have not reached one year's seniority from their passing the B. A. degree. They are aware that this is contrary to rule, hence their selection has been made subject to confirmation,—but those interested in literature have been scattered by the misfortunes of the province, and no others were at hand to fill up. They hope no necessity for this will occur again.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites consider this.

(7) From the Governor of Yunnan. A General, Li Wei-shu, reports the death of his mother. There is no necessity, in the present tranquil state of the Province, for detaining him from his duty of retiring into mourning, and therefore a deputy has been sent to take charge of Li's post.

(8) From Viceroy of Fuhkien. Announcing the manner in which he has filled the vacancy of Admiral, caused by the promotion of the late holder of that post to be Commander of the land Forces.

Nov. 7th.—The Board of Rites memorialize for the prohibition of slaughter of butcher meat on the 25th November.

(1) Edict.—Mao Yung-hsi is appointed to superintend repairs to the Western Tombs.

(1) Memorial from Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi. He states that on taking his parting Audience two years ago, the subject of the drill of the Provincial Troops was specially commended to his attention by the Throne. He adopted the system originated by Tsêng Kwo-fan in Chihli. When he took charge, the Shansi troops were in a shameful state, neither cavalry nor infantry were sufficient in numbers, petty traffic and manual labours were engaged in, and drill altogether ignored. They had never been taught fighting drill, nor even sapping, sentry-duty or reconnoitring. The Province may be termed the right flank of the Imperial Domain (Chihli), hence the importance of being prepared to meet the swarms of disbanded braves who will shortly be let loose, on the complete pacification of Kansuh and Shansi.

The advantages of Tsêng Kwo-fan's plan are:—

1.—The troops will be able to cope with the Ma-tsei or Mounted Brigands, against whom the ordinary constables are powerless.

2.—Being spread judiciously over the country in camps they will be able to take disbanded braves in detail before they become formidable.

3.—They will learn to move at one day's notice; formerly camp furniture and war material could not be put in motion under several days.

4.—They will continue to learn archery from their own officers, in addition to the drill with foreign arms by the officers of "The Braves."

5.—They will be a permanent force, fit for immediate use on occasion, and while not needed will employ themselves in drill. They will give thus all the advantages without the drawbacks of the "Braves," which latter are disbanded when done with.

6.—The raw-boned ponies will soon become fat, being under the new system made the property of the individual soldiers, who will become attached to their beasts. The cavalry are kept in separate cantonments from the infantry, on account of their different systems of drill.

7.—The soldiers by being kept at a distance from their wives and families, will be able to devote their whole attention to their profession, and render themselves hardy.

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[The remainder of the memorial is filled with details of reorganisation and redistribution.]

Nov. 8th.—(1) Edict. Ch'iao Sung-nien, the Yellow River Superintendent, reports the happy behaviour of the Yellow River, and His Imperial Majesty orders a tablet in recognition thereof to be bestowed on the Spirit of the River,—and gives sundry decorations and promotions to the officers who have displayed zeal at their posts.

(2) Memorial from Ying-han, Governor of Anhuei, proposing the cashiering of Chu Yung-nan, a high military officer, for using his weapon in a dispute with some country folk, and that he be handed over to the local authorities to be punished.—Rescript: Approved.

(3) From the same. Proposes that Liu Hsien-wên, Sub-Brigadier at Ganking, and lately promoted to be expectant T'itu, shall be excused from presenting himself at Peking, for there is much Brigandage round Ganking.—Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.

Nov. 9th and 10th.—The monthly Gazette of Civil Service movements.

(1) Edict. An-hsing-ah, Superintendent of the East Octroi Barriers at Peking, reports, on termination of his term of office, that the receipts more than covered the expenditure, but he is unable to pay the whole of the balance due.—Let the Revenue Board investigate and report to Us on this.

(2) Chalafêngah, Superintendent of the Western Octroi Barrier, is in the same predicament.

(3) These two officers are also on the Board of the Shang ssü-yüan 上駟院, (The Imperial Stable Department), as their Barriers support it. They report that this year 37 mules have died under their hands, and request to be visited with appropriate discipline for being unable to replace the mules, because the Treasury allowance for purchasing mules is far below the market price. H. I. M. remarks that the huge mortality discloses mismanagement, and directs the Revenue Board and the Stable Department to report to the Throne what are the limits of time allowed to such officials to replace the beasts. No such sham entries in the accounts will be allowed in future. The discrepancy is acknowledged between the allowed and the market value of mules, and the Revenue Board and Stable Department are directed to consider what changes must be made in the existing regulations; which change must, however, leave untouched the dependence of the Stables on the Barriers for funds. The two officials are pardoned so far as their difficulties are caused by the discrepant prices for mules.

(4) The Censors (K'o-shi-pu and others) of the intra-mural districts of Peking quote the custom of previous years as a precedent for the distribution of quilted clothes and cash to the poor.—We feel that the state of the poor on the gradual approach of winter is worthy of pity, and We grant, in the terms of the memorial, that Tls. 3,600 shall issue from those funds in the control of the Nei-wu fu which are let out at interest. If the Ch'ang-lu office (a Salt Office at or near Tientsin?) has not repaid the Treasury loan, let the Kwang-chu-ssü (a Department in the Household) supply the money in the meantime for immediate distribution.

(5) The Punishment Board reports the arrival of Ch'êng-lu, lately dismissed from high military command in Wulumuch'i.—Let the High Officers of the Grand Council and Board of Punishment conjointly hear the case against Chêng-lu, and report to the Throne as to what the law requires under the circumstances.

(6) Li Hung-ch'ang and two high Officers of the Granary Department recommend that delivery be accepted at T'ungchow of the Grain Tribute from the South, in place of at Tientsin as heretofore. This leaves the transport of, and responsibility for, the grain up the Peiho in the hands of the C. M. S. N. Co. and sweeps away a Grain Tribute Office (and all its peculation) from Tientsin. H. I. M. directs Li and his colleagues to draw up regulations embodying this idea, which is approved of.

(7) Memorial. An appeal case from the Censorate.

The appellant, Niu Chao-ch'ên, a literate by purchase, of T'ai-ku-hsien, in Shansi, states that his late brother, Niu Tao-ch'ên let, on the 典 or mortgage system, a plot of 80 odd mow of rich rice land in P'ing-shan-hsien, in Chihli, to one Chang Tê-hsin, for the sum of 375,000 for a round term of 6 years. The brother died two years afterwards, and the appellant delayed going to Ping-shan until the end of the tenancy—failing to arrive punctually through the state of the ways. Another relation Niu Pa-kuan also let 54 mow in the the same locality to Po-shun, for 220,000 cash for the whole term of 5 years. The appellant on reaching Ping-shan applied to Chang for the rental and for an alteration in the terms of his tenancy. Chang had got ear of the brother's death, and in concert with Po-shun fabricated two deeds purporting to convey the land

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to them for Tls. 100 and 200,000 cash. The appellant discovered that these deeds had no official certificate of Registration of transfer attached, and that the date alleged in them was 4 months after the brother's death. A suit was at once commenced, and it was decided most justly by the magistrate, Shou, of that place, that Chang and Po had no defence. These gentlemen then, through a third party, bribed Shou with Tls. 500 to delay execution. The appellant during the delay got sick and had to return home for his health, leaving his case with some relatives. These pressed it so much that another bribe of Tls. 2,780 in a bill at one month's sight was administered to Shou, and he then put pressure on one of the relatives to hush up the case. The bullying had the effect of driving the poor man into mania, and he finally died under the cruel insults of Chang. The appellant then turned to the magistrate's immediate superior, Liu, Prefect of Chêng-ting fu, but he and the magistrate were bound together in the sentimental relation of teacher and pupil, and the appellant simply got advice to withdraw the suit on receipt of Tls. 100. No redress has been obtained by appeal to the Provincial Judge and Governor.—The Rescript has already appeared.

(8) Tu-hsing-ah and his colleagues in charge of the Tombs, apply for the naming of a propitious day to replace the Ancestral Tablets after completion of the repairs. Rescript :—" Will answer separately." (This answer has already appeared.)

(9) Ming-an, of the Moukden Government, prays for the appointment of a successor to an officer whose recent promotion has vacated his seat on a high commission on an appeal case.—Rescript : "Chih-ho is hereby appointed."

11th.—(1) Edict.—It has been brought to the notice of the Throne that Wu-t'ang, Viceroy of Szechuen, has not decided a case referred to him two years ago. He is recommended to stir himself up.

(2) The case against Ch'i-shan, a Manchu military officer in Moukden, for causing the suicide of a gentleman of official status through unjustly imprisoning him, has been found proven. Ch'i-shan is condemned to serve in a fortress on the frontier. The other recommendations of the Court which tried the case are concurred in. [See Aug. 18th.]

(3) Memorial from Li Han-chang, Viceroy of Hukuang, and the Hunan and Hupeh Governors. [This was quoted sufficiently in the Edict of Nov. 1st.]

(4) From Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Shensi. He recommends the de-officialization, for the purpose of a trial, of an assistant Magistrate for meddling in a case (in which life was lost, in the absence of the proper seal-holding magistrate.) One Wang owed a debt he could not pay, swallowed a potion, and then went and created a disturbance in his creditor's house. The creditor thinking the man was merely drunk, led him to the assistant magistrate's Yamên, to be there examined and punished; but as soon as they got inside, the poison took effect, and the man died on the spot. The Rescript grants this.

(5) From Ts'ien Ting-ming 錢鼎銘 Governor of Honan. He has investigated and found proven a charge against one Li Kwang-hsü *alias* Li T'ien-ts'ü for having purchased official rank under a false name. A further charge of buying literary rank for his son, under suspicious circumstances as to the examination undergone to attain it, has not been proved as to the suspicious circumstances. A difficulty occurs in that there is no precise law to meet the case. He suggests a penalty from an analogous case in the books, viz :—military servitude on the nearest frontier, together with 100 blows on the reduced scale (i.e. forty blows) when he reaches his place of exile. The penalty is mitigated by the consideration that Li had not actually entered on the office which he purchased under this fraud. The others through whose hands the transaction for purchase passed were not cognizant of the fraud, and are blameless.—Rescript " Let the Board of Punishment report on this."

(6) From Shao Hêng-yü. A *Yu-chi*, (military officer of the 3rd Button), named Chao Yü-ch'êng, together with a body servant, a mafôo, and a friend whom Chao met on the road, have been arrested on the charge of highway robbery, —and they have admitted the truth of the charge. Chao was going home on leave from his cantonment in King-chow, in Ninghsia District, Kansu Province; and finding his travelling funds grow light, he and his friends waylaid merchants on the road. The Rescript de-officializes Chao and hands him over to the law.—[The penalty in his case will be death.]

12th.—(1) Edict.—Announces the result of the test (or honour) examinations for those who have passed M.A. Eighteen are in the first class, forty-eight in the second, and seventy three in the third class. Two who are entered in the fourth class are put back one term in their seniority, and recommended to increased diligence in

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study. Others who did not complete their papers are deprived of their degree of M.A.

(2) An appointment in Peking.

(3) Memorial.—From Ting Pao-chên, Governor of Shantung. He states that the temple to Mencius in that sage's native place has fallen into disrepair from long neglect. Tls. 17,836 is the sum which, after much cutting down of estimates, is found to be required. The balance in hand of the Temple-repairing Fund of this Province is out at interest on Salt Warrants, 引 | 票 [this is a new invention] and cannot be called in at once. The memorialist has advanced the amount from the Provincial Treasury.—Rescript: "Noted."

(4) From Liu K'uên-i, Governor of Kiangsi. He explains how it is that Ts'ai Kao-nien was not promoted to the first vacancy of Prefect which was at Nan-k'ang,—namely, because Ts'ai arrived three months after the former holder had to retire into mourning, and it was therefore given to the first man on the list—K'ia Liang-chên.—Rescript: "Let the Board of Civil Office consider this."

(5) From the same. Reporting a change in the Prefecture of Nanch'ang—Rescript: "Noted."

Nov. 13th.—(1) Edict.—Mu-t'êng-a and Fu-shêng report from Nanking that a petty officer named Shou-lu, having been obstreperous in his demands for pay, was dismissed the service and handed into the custody of To-lun, a military officer of the rank of Tso-ling. The man was noisy in confinement, and To-lun took on himself to punish him for that, thereby causing his death. Shou-lu's widow accuses To-lun of malice aforethought, and includes Wo-hê-t'u, and others as being accessories. This must be inquired into thoroughly. To-lun is hereby cashiered. Wo-hê-t'u is cashiered temporarily for the purposes of a trial, and the others are dismissed the army. Let the Viceroy, Li Tsung-hsi, depute an officer to assist in the investigation, and report to the Throne what the law requires.

(2) Memorial.—The Viceroy Jui-lin at Canton, and the Governor of Kwantung, Chang Chao-tung, report finally on the measures taken during the last two years against refractory villages in the neighbourhood of Ch'aochow (Swatow), and make sundry recommendations to the Throne for those who have assisted. General Fang has killed in Sha-lung, Sêu-shang-tien, Kin-p'u, and Hua-yang 288; in the Chieh-yang (K'it-yang) District 234; in Hnei-lai and P'u-ming 156, all these wretches having confessed. Concealed cannon of all sizes to the number of 600 odd were taken possession of; among these were more than a hundred of foreign make, the largest weighing five or six thousand pounds, which can be used by the Government troops.—Rescript: "Noted."

Nov. 14th. (1) Edict—Wan Wên-shao, Governor of Hunan, reports that at Anhua, (or Oonfa) one of the wealthiest tea districts, where a detachment of troops and gunboats are always stationed, a bold attempt on a tea hong took place in the 6th moon, ushered in by the burning and sinking of the gunboat on guard. Some of the robbers were caught and tried, and the country is now described as quiet, but the chief brigand, Yûen Ming-yang is at large, and we call upon the Governor to use his best efforts to bring the man to justice. We refer the officers and men who fell, to the Board for commiseration, and concur in other recommendations of the memorialist.

A monthly Gazette of Civil Service movements in the provinces.

(2) Memorial.—From Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Kansu and Shensi, reporting having filled up vacancies on the dismissal of two officers, one the Prefect of the Ninghsia, the other, an assistant Prefect in the Salt Office of that place.—Rescript: "Let the Board of Civil Office take note."

(3) The Viceroy of Canton and his colleagues report the result of anxious deliberation, in conjunction with the Treasurer and Judge, and the gentry of Ch'aochow fu (Swatow) on the mischievous habit the people of that district had long indulged in, of petty internecine strife; a habit at the root of much brigandage, and possibly of a rebellion. They attribute it to the weakness of the local authorities and to the absence of cultured influence. They propose to cleanse the source by dealing with it on four points. First, the fount of justice must be pure. A long proclamation has been issued to the magistrates, pointing out the duties of themselves and their underlings in awarding such swift and equal justice, both in civil and criminal matters, as shall commend itself to the people, and promising rewards to success and removal and punishment to those who fail. Second, the claims of parentage and seniority to deference must be reinforced. The duties of heads of villages and of clan-chiefs have been defined in a series of regulations. Third, literary culture must be encouraged. The gentry will be invited to establish free schools, and then the Sacred Edict and the Book of Poetry will doubtless exert

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their due influence towards courtesy and uprightness. Fourth, the taxes must be punctually collected. The revenue due in that area is over Tls. 200,000, and this has been habitually in arrear. An effort has lately been made, and the debit balance of many years cleared off, and the payers and payees of taxes have had their duties in this matter clearly set forth. The memorialists hope their action will enure in a better state of things.—Rescript: "Noted."

(4) From the same. Strongly recommending General Fang to the notice of the Throne for his wonderful success.—Rescript: "We bestow on him a Yellow Jacket."

(5) From Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Kansu and Shensi. (An enclosure). A *Fu-chiang* (high military officer) named Wu Lan-kuei states that his family Register has recently been revised, and it has come to his notice that the character *kuei* in his own name has already been used by a distant ancestor. He prays the Throne for leave to withdraw respectfully from his present name, and to take that of An-jên. The Viceroy states that there is nothing in Wu's record against him.—Rescript: "The petition is granted. Let the Board of War take note."

Nov. 15th. (1)—Edict (a Board appointment).

Another monthly Gazette.

(2) Memorial.—From the Censors of Examinations, already quoted in the Edict of the 4th inst.

(3) From Prince Kung, reporting a routine appointment.—Rescript: "Noted."

(4) From the Viceroy of Huquang, Li Han-chang and the Governor of Hupeh Kuo Po-yin. The memorialists were directly called upon by the Throne to report on the present capacity for holding office, of the Grain Commissioner Ting Shou-tsun. They hereby perceive the anxiety of H. I. M. to have capable servants. Ting has held office nine years; and though of full power at first, is now much enfeebled by an incurable sickness.—Rescript: "Let the Board of Civil Office take note."

(5) From the same. The filling of a death vacancy.—Rescript: "Let the Board of War report on this."

(6) From the same. Proposing the dismissal of a military officer for swindling a poor woman out of some money.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Board of War take note."

(7) From the Governor of Honan. Reporting his arrangement on the absence at Audience of General Yang Hung-li.—Rescript: "Noted."

(8) From the same. Reports that 15,740 students appeared at the Chü-jên (M. A.) examinations this year. Two thousand has hitherto been thought an extraordinary number. The resources of the Examination Halls have been severely taxed, and 1,600 new cells had to be built on the spur of the occasion. All passed off successfully, however. The number of candidates is thought a great subject for congratulation, and it is attributed to the long peace of the province.—Rescript: "Noted."

(9) From Ch'ang shun. Praying that he may keep a Mongol Prince, To-pu-sin-ta-mu-tsin, at his post (in spite of an Edict recalling him) until his successor arrives. [This is at one of the distant dependencies].—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Colonial Office take note."

(10) From the Governor of Honan. A mourning vacancy.

(11) From General (Manchu) Ting-an at Uliassutai. Recommends an officer for success in bringing forward the military chest.—Rescript: "Let the Board of Civil Office report."

(12) From the same. Praying for fur coats for his men during the bitter cold. An outlay of Tls. 23,400 is needed for this, over and above the ordinary expenses of Tls. 15,000, and he does not know where to look for it but at Peking.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Board of Revenue take note."

Nov. 16th (1, 2, 3,) Edicts filling up vacancies while T'o-yün is absent on leave. He was Fu-tu-t'ung of the Manchu Red Banner.

A list of appointments.

(4) Memorial.—From Liu Chang-yu, Governor of Kuangsi. (An enclosure) This reports the trading and smuggling of an officer, and the officious and cunning conduct of one Chou, an official in mourning retirement, which has been already dealt with in the Edict of the 4th inst.

(5) From the Hu-kuang authorities, reporting that the Hupeh military examinations have, according to law, been presided over by the Viceroy (he residing in that province) with the Governor as second.—Rescript: "Let the Board of War take note."

(6) From the Kuangsi Governor. Reporting the Acting Magistrate of Sêü-ên hsien. [See Edict of the 3rd inst.]

(7) From Yen-hsü, Pi Tao-yüan and others, recommending the opening of congee kitchens in the Chinese city. [See Edict of the 3rd inst.]

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(8) From the Kueichow authorities. Praying that the *Pa-kung* and *Yu-kung* degree men may have their expenses paid to Peking.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Board take note."

(9) From the Kuangsi Governor. States that the Revenue demanded from the Nan-ning fu Barrier in respect of duties on Betel-nut arriving from Annam was Tls. 516, plus extras Tls. 2,416.18, in ordinary years of 12 months, and Tls. 559, plus Tls. 2,474.12 for years of 13 months. The successive officers in charge of that Barrier have from time to time reported that no Betel-nut enters by that route, it having been diverted to the sea-route by the disturbed state of the country. The Governor and his colleagues have investigated this subject, and find the allegation to be true. They recommend that all claims against former officers in charge, for Revenue at that Barrier on account of Betel-nut duties, shall be withdrawn from 1864 and onwards.—Rescript: "Let the Board of Revenue report."

(10) A long memorial suggesting congee kitchens at the six outside gates of the Tartar city. The gist of this was quoted in the Edict of the 6th instant.

Nov. 17th.—(1) Memorial from I-jung and I-wên, reporting arrangements on the recall to Audience of Hai-ying, the Manchu Sub-Brigadier at Alotsuk'o.

(2) From Nojên reporting repairs to Tombs.

(3) From Chang Shu-shêng, Governor of Kiangsu. This memorial reports on the works for deepening the water-ways between the Tai hu Lake. The work was undertaken under orders from the Throne. Seventy-two creeks are named, thirteen of which were very badly silted. The Soochow Creek was very shallow for 40 li between Wongdu and Tsaoukadu, and the bed for the other 20 li to Sinza was very much raised. The creeks about Taitsang were very bad. The Estimates are as follows:—For the Low-kong Creeks, Tls. 22,400. For Wongdu and its neighborhood, Tls. 12,000. For the Soochow Creek, Tls. 125,100. For Tsih-pu, Tls. 26,300. For Tzulnking, Tls. 13,800. For Jowtow, Tls. 95,200. Total, Tls. 295,000. The Li-kin Revenues are to bear the whole expense. Three years will probably complete the works. The Treasurer, Ying Pao-shih, has been the moving spirit in this great undertaking. Leave is asked to name the other officers who have rendered valuable service.—Rescript: "Granted. Let the Board take note."

Nov. 18th.—(1) Edict.—The High Authorities of Kueichow report for honour the death of a Brevet-General of Extra Banner Forces, named Tanng Wen-hsiu. He had distinguished himself in several provinces and also against the Miao-tsze, and at last died in camp during 1871 in the Sulphurous Districts, to H. I. M.'s great grief. The usual grants due in case of a full general dying after victory in camp, are hereby accorded, and an epitaph due to a full general dying on the field of battle. Others are to be placed in the same chapel as the above.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang. Recommends for the post of Magistrate at Jaoyang, Chang Wei-chang, aged 62, a doctor in literary degree, of Kansuh province, now Magistrate at Taming. The late man has been promoted.

(3) From the same; asking for de-officialization of a Shou-pei (Captain) named Morh Kôut'u, in charge at Huai-lai, for having instigated a soldier to maltreat a peasant in a dispute, so cruelly as to cause severe hurts which afterwards brought about death "*from their having caught cold.*" The Rescript grants this.

(4) From Yisu and others reporting the completion of the Epitome of the history of the suppression of the Taiping and Mahomedan Rebellions. It is in 321 volumes.

(5) From the Great Council (Prince Kung &c.) an Enclosure. The Epitome just referred to was undertaken in 1869, and the expenses allowed were Tls. 250 per month. The Board of Revenue advanced the sums necessary during 24 months, for which the Great Council owes them Tls. 6,000. It is now proposed to repay this Tls. 6,000 by annual instalments of Tls. 300. [This is only 5 % on the capital loan, and after paying *that* for 20 years the capital is to vanish!]—The Rescript approves of this.

(7) From the Governor of Anhwei. Reports having advanced from the Provincial Treasury the sum of Taels 10,000 for the Chihli Flood commiseration Fund. Which sum is the amount fixed to be paid from Anhwei. The Likin Chest which should have paid it was empty at the time, from meeting a recent requisition for the Military Chest in Kansuh.—Rescript: "Noted."

(6) From the Governor of Anhwei. Reports that, during the month he was locked up at Nanking superintending the Chü-jên examinations, so many important affairs occurred demanding his presence at Ganking that he,

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with the concurrence of the Viceroy at Nanking, returned by steamer to his post immediately he was released, without waiting to seal the Lists of successful candidates. Precedents are quoted from Li Hung-chang's Viceroyalty for deputing the formal sealing to other High-Officers.—Rescript: "Noted."

Nov. 19th.—(1) Edict.—Wên-ping reports the safety of the upper part of the Yellow River down to the end of autumn. The River had swollen greatly in September; but through tremendous exertions of all the officers no catastrophe occurred. H. I. M. is deeply affected by the goodness of the Spirit of the Stream, and besides the usual votive tablet, directs the issue of ten large Thibetan incense sticks for burning at his shrine.

(2, 3, 4) Three High Commissions on appeal cases.

(5) Memorial by Ko-shih-p'u and others, suggesting the issue of quilted clothes to the poor. [See Edict of 10th instant.]

(6) Ch'iao Sung-nien, Superintendent of the lower part of the Yellow River, recommends for distinction by the Throne, those who made themselves conspicuously useful in curbing the waters during the late season. [The Edict has already appeared.]

(7) From the same. Reporting the state of the River to the end of autumn, and its safety. [Edict has already appeared.]

(8) From Ching-lin. The condition of the Palace which H. I. M.'s Ancestors occupied before the Dynasty conquered China, has not been reported on for five years. As the memorialist has nothing better to do just now, he is going, in light travelling style, to pay the place a visit.

Nov. 20th.—(2) Li Hung-chang has reported the great success with which the outburst of the Yung-ting River has been coped with. The officers concerned are hereby reinstated in all their former honours, of which they were deprived for their (presumed) carelessness in allowing the catastrophe.

(3 and 4) The officers An-hsing-ah and Cha-la-fêng-ah, who lately reported themselves unable to pay the balances to the credit of the Octroi Barriers under their charge—the said balances being Tls. 493 odd and Tls. 44 odd, respectively—are, at the suggestion of the Board of Revenue, forgiven their debts. The rest of the Board's recommendations are approved of.

Nov. 20th.—(1) Edict.—The Governor of Chekeang has recommended that the districts East of the Hwangpoo, in the Sungkiang Prefecture, should be relieved of part of the tax for 1872 in support of the salt-evaporating furnaces, as they have already been relieved, by the grace of the Throne, of part of their grain tribute payments. H. I. M. accords this. Those who had already paid the full amount due will have the surplus carried to their credit on the next year's collections. This is ordered to be made known in the method usual for Imperial Rescripts of general bearing.

(5) Memorial.—From the Board of Punishment, reporting the arrival in custody of Chêng-lu, lately a General of Extra-Banner Forces at Wulumuch'i. This gentleman requisitioned a district in that locality, and on their refusing to meet his demands, massacred 200 and more of the inhabitants. This exploit he reported to the Throne as a success against the rebels, with recommendations to distinction of his subordinate officers,—all in the most formal manner. [The Edict ordering the Board to proceed to trial has already appeared.]

(6) From the Governor of Shensi, Shao Hêng-yê. Reports the result of the trial of a General of Extra-Banner Forces named Chang Kuo-an, and of his confederates (also military officers) for conspiring to defraud by means of forged seals, and states the penalty the law indicates. These gentlemen were in want of funds to take them home. They first got some blank forms as patterns, engraved and struck off a few dozen copies of what purported to be money orders, and manufactured a seal to give them an official look. They then burnt all the traces of their working. No one would cash these orders, so they turned their attention to forging such a document as would get them horses and carts free of expense on the road. They stole blank paper used for writing orders from superior to inferior officials on, and two official envelopes, and set to work again. When everything was ready, one of the number lost heart and "peached." [The Rescript orders the Board of Punishment to report on the suggested penalties.]

Nov. 21st.—(1) Edict.—The leaders of a gang of robbers have been captured on the confines of Moukden and Jehol, and sentenced to death. Some officers are decorated and promoted for this service, and the various authorities are recommended to increased vigilance, and to the use of paid spies, and seeking out those who have eluded capture.

(2) Censor Shên-hsai, in a memorial, prays that repairs to Yuen-ming-yuen may be put off. As the Treasury is still ill furnished, drought and floods follow each other in constant succession, and military expenditure has not quite ceased, We look upon

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economy as the Empire's first need. How then could We increase the expenditure by commencing any building operations? The Censor's Memorial, though founded on rumour, is not uncalled for. Yet the two Dowager Empresses, in their unflagging attention to business in assisting Us for the past ten years, and in the continued absence of any spot where they could take the gentle relaxation they so much need, have greatly moved Our commiseration, We therefore directed the High Officer of the Household (Nei-wu-fu) to find mean. to prepare a place of retreat and recreation, but at the same time urging the most careful economy. The An-yu-kung was the Portrait gallery of Our Sainted Predecessors; that and a temple in which the Dowager Empresses might reside in, and a place for Ourselves to transact business in, are to be repaired and rebuilt in a small way, and without much expense. The rest will not be touched. We make this known for the information of all, both of those at the Capital and those in the Provinces.

(3) Memorial. — From Chang Shu-shêng, Governor of Kiangsu. Reports the munificent gift to the charities of Soochow by the Kin (金) family, of the capital sum of Tls. 10,000. This has been placed at interest in the hands of pawnshops, and brings in Tls. 1,200 per annum. The donors desire its distribution thus :— Tls. 600 to Congee kitchens in the winter, Tls. 300 to the Foundling Hospital, the rest to two other institutions. The gift is made with express disclaimer of any desire for honours from the Throne. The Governor asks for leave to erect a tablet to perpetuate the memory of the gift, and to place on formal record the objects to be supported.—Rescript : "Granted and approved."

(4) From the same. Reports for notice by the Throne Ho Shên-hsin 何慎修, who has been associated in the work of dredging the waterways of the province. He has often greatly distinguished himself by devoting his time to works of public usefulness, is over 60 years old, and is dutifully attending at the knees of his aged parents who are on the edge of the grave.—Rescript : "Let him come to audience."

(5) From the same. Reports being about to visit the great port of Shanghai for the first time, and will in a subsequent memorial give an account of the state of the waterways, and generally of all that he may see of importance.—Rescript : "Noted."

(6) From Li Hung-chang, Yen-hsü, and Pi Tao yüan.—This recommends that delivery of the Grain Tribute be accepted at T'ung-chow from the Chinese Merchant Steamer Company, instead of at Tientsin as formerly. The Rescript approving this has already appeared.

(7) From the same. Recommending for honour the officers who have been drilling the troops in Chihli.

Nov. 22nd.—(1) Edict. A Gazette.

(2) Bestows a month's extra rations on the troops at the Capital, as usual on the approach of winter.

(3) Memorial from Ting Pao-chên. Reports the state of the Yellow River in Shantung down to the middle of October.—Rescript : "Noted." [A long detailed paper.]

(4) From the Viceroy at Nanking, and the Governor of Kiangsu. Reports that the sometime Magistrate of I-ching (near Nanking), who was indebted to the Treasury in the sum of Tls. 2,300 or so, short-accounted for during his tenure of office, has paid up within the period allowed.

[The following curious regulations are prefixed to the Gazette of 23rd November.

"Gazette copyists, and printers of "editions of the Peking Gazette, were "ordered on the 7th Nov., 1873, to take "note of, and mutually see to the obser-"vance of these regulations :—

1.—"MS. copies of all *Edicts* will be "supplied every *Gazette-printing* establish-"ment. Any editor who takes upon him-"self to omit, as has happened, an Edict "granting remission of Grain Tribute, will "be severely punished."

[The Board of Revenue Officials *might* wish to keep back the knowledge of such an Edict from the provincials concerned.]

2.—"The limit of size is increased to "ten sheets. Should the matter in hand "extend further, notice must be printed "of what is held over to the next issue. "It is forbidden to editors to cut down "their issue to 4 or 5 sheets by omissions. [A full sheet contains 368 characters, 16 columns of 23 characters.]

3.—"All Commissions, Audiences, and "Monthly Gazettes must be printed in "full at once,—no more selection will be "allowed.

4.—"Every document, however lengthy, "must be printed as a whole at one issue, "and not spread over three or four as "heretofore—the limit of ten sheets not-"withstanding."

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Nov. 23rd.—(1 and 2) Edicts.—Appointing supervisors at the Archery Trials.

(3) The Board of Revenue is called upon to consider the application of the recent Superintendent of the Chang-chia-k'on (Khalgan) Barrier, that the surplus revenue collected by him during his year may be passed to his credit as he is unable to pay up.

(4) An appeal case from the Censorate. The appellant, by name Li Shau-chow, had been engaged with his nephew Li Hung-chun in business in the district city of Suy-ning. During 1861, the Nien-fei infested the neighbourhood, and the small body of Imperial troops there stationed were on the point of dispersing through want of provisions and discipline, and he was commissioned by the provincial authorities to raise supplies and recruits. He did so, and spent over Tls. 15,000; and by that means several victories were gained over the rebels, and the district was restored to quietness. After the troops were disbanded, his claim for reimbursement was not only ignored altogether by the local Magistrate and Prefect, who claimed the merit for themselves, but they first caused his house to be plundered, and carried away his official papers (the proofs of his claim) and then trumped up a charge of robbery against him for which he suffered banishment. Failing to get redress from the provincial authorities, he had come to Peking and already got an Edict directing the Viceroy of Szechuen to investigate the case, but the only effect of that had been that the Viceroy had imprisoned his nephew who had presented the appeal.—For Rescript. Vide Edict of the 11th Nov.

(5) Li Ho-nien Viceroy of Fokien reports various military officers for incapacity, and asks that their dismissal be sanctioned.—Rescript. Granted. Let the Board of war take note.

(6) A memorial from Juy-lin Viceroy of Canton, and Lin Ch'ang-yu, Governor of Kwang-si. They have had difficulty in selecting a fit officer to fill the post of Prefect at Chin-an, in the unhealthy border districts (the Sulphurous Districts) of the provinces, which requires peculiar qualifications. Their first choice was disapproved of by Board of Rites, and now they propose to appoint a Manchu named Ying-jur. A list of his services is added, and if the appointment is approved, it is requested that his presentation to the Emperor be deferred till the present disturbed state of the districts is settled.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites consider and report to the Throne.

(7) From the same. Sen Shing-sch, a military officer, reports having recovered from his wounds, and begs that his leave of absence be recalled. He also returns thanks for the brevet rank of Ti-tu and other honours.—Rescript: The Request is granted. Let the Board of War take note.

Nov. 24.—(1) A list of various promotions in the lower ranks of the civil service.

(2) Two officers having been reported by the Governor-General of Sze-chuan for incapacity, their cases are adjudicated upon by H. I. M. One is allowed to return on account of old age; the other is suspended.

(3) An Edict censuring various high officers in Mongolia for mismanagement, and referring them to the Board for proper discipline. Regulations had been drawn up for the supply of rice, &c., to the poor people, in consequence of continued bad harvests, and several dismissals had been made among the junior officers for mismanagement and negligence in carrying out these Regulations. Now, on the representation of the Board of Punishment, Chang-shun and his colleagues, their superiors, are reprimanded for not having taken more care in giving instructions.

(4) This and the following Gazette are taken up with a long report from a special Commissioner, who was deputed to try an officer of the name of Ch'i-shan, for causing the death of an official through unjust imprisonment. (*Vide Gazette*, Aug. 18th). The recommendations of the Memorialist were approved in *Gazette* of Nov. 11th.

Nov. 25.—(1) An appointment on the Board of Civil Service.

(2) Arranging for the sacrifices at the Temple of Heaven in the Winter Solstice. The Emperor in person to sacrifice at the main altar, and four officers are selected for the subordinate altars.

(3) The Viceroy of Szechuen is directed to select a proper officer as District Magistrate in the provincial capital.

(4) Conferring promotions on Chang Yun-i and others, for their geomantic services in constructing new Imperial tombs.

(5) Appointing the Viceroy and Governor of Hupeh as a High Commissioner to hear and report upon the appeal case of Hseung Wen-yuen.

(6) Appointing the Governor of Hunan as High Commissioner, to hear and report on the appeal of Jao Ko-yung.

Nov. 26th.—(1) Granting a year's leave of absence to Ting Pao-chen Governor of Shantung, in order to enable him to repair his family burying ground, and several acting appointments consequent thereon.

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(2) There will be no Court ceremony on the 28-29th Nov.

(3) Pao Yuen-shen, Governor of Shansi, proposes to appoint Shen Ta-mo as Acting sub-Prefect of Chosi-chow, an important charge as the Yellow River runs through the district. A list of his services is added.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil service consider and report.

(4) From the same. Reporting facts in the case of the escape of a criminal named Kao Tai-tsootze while under charge of the Magistrate of Yangchu; proposing certain investigations to ascertain whether there was any bribery, and that the Magistrate be referred to the Civil Service Board for the appropriate discipline.—Rescript: Let the Board fix the discipline according to law, the rest of the memorial granted as prayed.

(5) From the same. Proposing Chang Yuen-ting as district Magistrate of Fen-yang, with special reasons for this particular case.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Service consider and report.

Nov. 27th.—From Shan-ching, Commander-in-chief of the Tartar Garrison at Hangchow in Chekiang, praying that Teh Leng-o an officer lately promoted to the rank of Tso-leng may be excused the formality of being presented at Court for the present. Foreign arms have recently been purchased for his troops, and Instructors are much wanted to teach them the new drill, which is very different from the old musket drill. The officer in question is an able Instructor, and in view of the importance of the subject his services in the camp cannot well be spared; bye and bye when the troops have got to some degree of perfection in the drill, both he and the nomines-in-waiting will be sent to Peking.—Rescript. Granted. Let the Board of War take note.

(2) From the same.—The rear division of the above Garrison being very much reduced in strength, it has been arranged to reinforce it by drafts from Honan of 800 men altogether, but barracks and yamens for the soldiers and officers have first to be built. These works will be finished by degrees so as not to throw all the expense on one year, and the men will be moved as the buildings are finished.—Rescript.' Noted.

(3) From the Governer of Kwangsi, recommending Wen-hwei for the post of Prefect of Hatinchow-foo, and asking that his presentation be deferred on account of the disturbed state of the district.—Rescript. Let the Board of Civil Service consider and report.

(4) Wen-hwei returns thanks for his promotion to the rank of *Foo Tu-t'ung*.

Nov. 28.—(1). Juy-lin, Viceroy of Canton, along with the Governor and Military Commander of the Province, pray that the services of Tsen Sao-tsung—a General serving in the northern Province of Kwang-tung—may be retained, notwithstanding the death of his father, for which he ought to retire for the customary period. He is a most able officer, and has done great service in pacifying the districts, but they are not yet quiet. A precedent is given in the case of the same individual, when his mother died four years ago.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of War take note.

(2). From Juy-lin and the Naval Ti-tu, proposing Lai-Chin-tsun as Foo-tseang at Ta-pang-hsée.—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(3.) From the same, reporting a routine appointment.—Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.

(4.) Ching-lin, a General in command of a circuit in the north-east of Chihli, reports having completed his tour of inspection of the various military stations along the Imperial road leading to the ancestral seat of the present dynasty. He found everything in good order, and also that the Feng-shui of the places was attended to, the posts in front of the stations being erect, the roads swept clean, &c. He did not fail to urge the several officers in charge to increased care and diligence.—Rescript: Noted.

Nov. 29.—(1) An edict bestowing the rank of Fu Tu-t'ung on Wenlin a Manchu officer in charge of Hami, and other districts in Western Kansuh, for his victories over the Mahommedan rebels. They had laid seige to the town of Hami, but he attacked and routed them, killing 100 in one and 300 in another engagement besides capturing arms &c.; other rewards to be given when a fuller report appears.

(2) Memorial from Wu t'ang Viceroy of Szechuen reporting upon Wang Shu-han, an expectant prefect who has passed his year's probation in the provincial capital with *eclat*. (This was after his first arrival in the province.) He has shown himself worthy of any post, and ought to be employed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Service take note.

(3) Memorial from Sao Hän-yu Governor of Shensi, recommending T'ang Pai-lui for service.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Service take note.

(4) Routine appointments by Juy-lin Viceroy of Canton.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) From Sao Hän-yu, Governor of Shensi (an enclosure) reporting an attack by robbers on the house of a gentleman named Ma Pai-ling situated in the provincial capital,

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in the course of which his concubine and two children were killed. The police first arrested Sun Tu-kwei urh who said the robbery had been planned by himself and one Pai Yen-kwei at the instigation of Ma Cheng-en. These two being also arrested, the former confessed without hesitation, but the latter refused to reveal his motives. It seems he had held the hereditary office of P'i-t'ang in the capital, and been degraded for his connection with the Mahammedan rebels. His antecedents and his refusal to confess his motives lead one to fear there was more in the case than has come to light, and therefore he is sent back to the Prefect for re-examination.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(7) Wu-t'ang Viceroy of Szechuen reports how from ill health he had been unable to superintend in person the whole of his public duties, and what measures he had taken in consequence.—Rescript: Noted.

Nov. 30th.—(1) Edict. Granting permission to Tsow-kwei to retire from his post of Superintendent of the Salt Gabelle in Shantung, in order to take care of his aged parents.

(2) Memorial from the Kweichow authorities, reporting for posthumous honours the death of Yu Wen-hsin. (See Edict (1) of 18th Nov. for the facts of the case.)

(3) From the Governor of Hunan reporting the sacking of a tea hong in Anhua (see Edict (1) of Nov. 14th.)

(4) From the same, forwarding an application from Hien-ying an officer of the rank of T'san-chiang, properly belonging to the bordered Yellow banner Corps, but who has been serving for 20 years on the staff of the Governor of Hunan. He now wishes to return home—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of War take note.

Dec. 1st.—(1) Edict. Appointing Pu Kwan-lai to the post of Superintendent of the Salt Gabelle in Shantung.

(2) Memorial from Wên-ping, the Imperial Grain Commissioner, respecting the floods in the Yellow River during the past summer. The new embankments at the various dangerous places had not been completed in time owing to want of money, and as the River began to rise there was constant danger of its bursting through. The memorialist and his subordinates exerted themselves to the utmost, and by good fortune the danger was averted. Now all is safe, a plentiful harvest has been gathered all over the country, and the people are in a loyal and thankful frame of mind;—this all owing to the Emperors' virtues and the protecting influence of the spirit of the stream. Therefore he proposes that a grant of ten Thibetan incense sticks be made by His Majesty to the latter, to evince the nation's gratitude. If the officers concerned show similar diligence next year, they will be reported to the Throne for rewards.

[The Edict has already appeared, see Nov. 19.]

(3) An appeal from the Censorate. The appellant, Tsao Tsung-ming, a native of Hwangpi hsien, in Hupeh, accuses a clansman named Tsao Tsung-ko and others of a series of persecutions and extortions for which he could find no remedy, (the yamen-runners being bribed to conceal the truth,) ending in their seizing his younger brother and throwing him into prison where he died. At the time of this last occurrence, complainant was absent on military service, but learning from his mother that there had been no inquest; that the body had been secretly buried, and that she could not get her plaint attended to at the Yamen of the district, he brought his case to the capital.

[Edict has already appeared.]

(4) Another appeal from the Censorate. Fu-yu, a native of Chioshan hsien, in Honan, had been falsely charged by Lin-chin and others of owing them a debt, and had been beaten when he refused to pay up. On his going to the Magistrate to complain, the opposite party by bribery and false evidence turned the tables, and he was beaten and forced to sign a bond. They again attacked him, and carried off his wife and inflicted on her such injuries that she died, and when he again complained he was met in the same way, and imprisoned for several months. He carried his case successively to the higher provincial authorities without success, and now brings this appeal to the capital.

[Edict has already appeared.]

(5) Another appeal from the same quarter (Honan) reveals a similar case of bribery, and wrong, arising out of an alleged loan of money and refusal to repay. The appellant is a widow whose husband had died from the beatings he had received, and she had applied in vain to the Magistrate and Prefect.

[Edict has already appeared.]

(6) An application from the Literary Chancellor of Kwangsi for four months' leave of absence to repair his ancestral tombs.—Rescript: Granted.

Dec. 2nd.—(1) Edict. Appointing examiners and supervisors to superintend the forthcoming military examinations for 2nd degree at Peking.

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(2) Appointing Yih Yung yuen to be Grain Taotai in Fookien.

(3) Memorial from Li Hung-chang. The present sub-Prefect of Ki-chow, named Sung P'eng-show, is about to marry his son to a granddaughter of his official superior the Prefect of Shuntien foo (Peking), and under these circumstances the Civil Service Board had moved that he should be transferred to a similar post in a different Prefecture [This was for fear of collusion between the two in their official capacity. The writer proposes that he should exchange with P'eng Cho-chi, sub-Prefect of Chingchow.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(4) From the same. Reporting the failure of Ch'en Kao, Magistrate of Fung-ning hsien to arrest and bring to justice, within the time allowed, the parties who committed certain robberies within his district. Further orders have been given that the thieves must be found, and meantime he is by law liable to be degraded.—Rescript: Let Ch'en Kao be handed over to the proper Board, who will settle the discipline to be inflicted.

(5) From the same. Reporting on the case of Yin Têh-tai a Manchu of the rank of expectant Taotai, who has just passed his year's probation in the Provincial Capital. He has had a button of the 2nd class conferred upon him by special Edict, and other honours, and he will be promoted to the first Taotai vacancy that occurs.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Service take note.

(10) From the same Requesting that 16 military officers of various ranks who have been disabled by wounds, be excused from keeping up their horse archery exercise.—Rescript: Granted: The Board of War to take note.

(8) From the Governor of Kiangsi, praying that one T'ang Lin-t'ang, holding the brevet rank of blue button, may be deofficialized for the purpose of a trial on a charge of robbery, at the instance of one Lieh Ko-ya.—Rescript: Ordered as prayed.

Dec. 3rd.—(1) Memorial from Kuo Pai-yin, the Governor of Hupeh, reporting the means taken last summer to prevent inundation in the country about Ching-chow on the Yangtze. Being himself occupied in quelling some disturbances by banditti in the interior of his province, he had specially deputed two officers, a Taotai and Prefect, to see to the work, who had with great exertion averted a threatened catastrophe.—Rescript: Noted.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports the death of an Assistant Magistrate named Yeh Chang-hsü from injuries received while endeavouring to stop the floods on the Yung Ting river. He was in charge of one of the stations along the bank, and in a night of wind and rain was standing on a dangerous position urging his men to exertion when he missed his footing and fell. Notwithstanding that he was then severely injured, he continued to expose himself and died in consequence. It has been customary to give posthumous rewards in such cases as if the officer had died on military service, and a similar honour is now prayed for.—Rescript: Let the Board fix a liberal reward and report.

(3) A Long memorial from Li Hung-chang respecting the breaking out of the Yungting River and what has been done to remedy the disasters. On first learning that the water had been suffered to break out, the officers in charge had been degraded and special men sent to repair the damage. They now report the steps they took and the difficulties they had to contend against before bringing the work to a successful close—the principal of which were the swampy nature of the ground, and want of materials and money. The officials concerned have made up for their original negligence by subsequent diligence, and so are reinstated in their former places. A list of officers for promotion is appended. The memorialist adds an explanation of how he raised money in the emergency. There being no time to write and get funds from the proper Board, and the amount which the several officers were fined not being enough, he had taken in all Tls. 66,000 in various proportions from the annual allowance for the repairs of rivers; from the annual subsidy paid to Chihli by the two Kiang; from the allowance for the Nan river repairs from the salt revenue; from the subsidy paid from the Shanghai Customs revenue for the pay and drill of Troops in Chihli; and from the commiseration fund paid by several provinces to sufferers in Chihli. The labour has cost more than the legal rate, and it is hoped in accordance with a precedent quoted that a specific account of the items disbursed will not be required. [Edict has already appeared.]

Dec. 4th.—(1) A long Gazette of changes in the Civil service.

(2) Memorial from Tsung-shih the Commandant in the Jêh-ho district, recommending Wang Shih-chin, at present an expectant sub-prefect, for the rank of Chün-t'ung, as a reward for his services in auditing public accounts as between some outgoing and incoming officials. He had been previously recommended for the rank of Prefect, which was disallowed by the

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Board.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service consider and report.

(3) From the same, reporting having appointed Li Ying-chow Acting Magistrate of Chih-fêng Hsien, vacant by the death of the previous incumbent.—Rescript. Noted.

(4) From the same. A detailed report of the suppression of various bands of robbers that had infested the neighbourhood of Jêh-ho and Moukden and the trial and punishment of the chiefs. [The Edict has already appeared; see Gazette of Nov. 21st.]

Dec. 5th.—(1) Edict.—Kwang-show (a Vice President of the Board of Punishment) is ordered to replace Yen-hsü a Shih-lang of the Granary Dept., during his period of mourning.

(2) Memorials.—An appeal from the censorate. The appellant states that his brother having had a dispute with a neighbour Kwan Fu-chên, about the right to some newly formed land on the river side, the latter had set upon him with his servants, tied him up, beaten him and buried him before he was actually dead. An inquest had been held, but Kwan Fu-chên having a relations clerk in the Magistrate's Yamen had managed to stop further proceedings. He had also trumped up a story about the deceased having been guilty of very unfilial conduct, and that it was at the instigation of his mother that he had beaten him. Appellant and his mother had sought redress at the Prefect's and Treasurer's Yamen, but were only referred back to the District Magistrate, therefore he had come to the Capital to complain. [Edict has already appeared.]

(3) Memorial from Tu-shinga and Kung-tang, the chief military and civil officials in Moukden, who had along with Juy leen been appointed a high commission to inquire into the recent disasters from excessive floods in that quarter. Juy-leen has been moved to another Port, and they pray that a third Commissioner may be appointed in his place.—Rescript appoints Chih-ho.

(4 and 5) The Viceroy and Governors of Hunan and Hupeh report the arrival of the Annam Tribute Bearers on their way to the Capital. As usual officers were deputed to escort them, and they quitted the jurisdiction on the 25th Oct., all well. —Rescript: Noted.

(6) An appeal from the Censorate. Appellant's nephew had married the daughter of a man named Chow Yew-tao, and sometime after the marriage the lady's parents, being bribed for the purpose, got her away from her husband and gave her as a concubine to a man named Seu Kung-hwei. The nephew's father Jaou Hsien-yung laid a plaint at the Magistrate's Yamên (Lung-shan-hsien in Hunan) which was not attended to, and some time after, having gone to Hon-tze-po, he was set upon by the man Seu and others and beaten to death. Appellant (named Jaou Ko-yung) then went to complain at the Magistrate's Yamên, but could not get admittance, the door-keeper having been bribed to refuse him. His appeal to the Prefect was answered by referring him back to the Magistrate. —Rescript has already appeared.

Dec. 6th.—(1) Edict. Upon a memorial from Li Hung-chang, the Throne grants a partial remission of the land-tax in the several districts which have suffered from the recent floods in Chihli, in proportion to their losses, for example a loss of 7-10ths of the crop entitles the proprietor to an abatement of 1-5th.; 8-10ths to an abatement of 2-5ths &c., and the payment of the remainder to be extended over two or three years.

(2) An acting appointment in the Board of Punishment.

(3) A memorial from Hsü Chen-i, the literary Chancellor of Shensi and Kansuh, reporting the establishment of a new college in Ching-yang-hsien in Shensi for the study of the classics. He commences with a long dissertation on the merits of learning and the causes of the failure of other colleges, and then proceeds to state wherein lies the advantage of his own scheme. The main object of the new college is to give solid or practical learning, and to attain this the students are to be drilled in the Seven Classics; History both of the former and present dynasties; commentaries on the "Great Learning" and the "Wên-hsien-t'ung K'ao" (the great work of Ma Twan-lin—see Wylie p. 56) &c., &c. The establishment is to be under the personal supervision of a President and Professors chosen from the resident Literati for their attainments, and not under the high officials, who really have not the necessary time to give to it public lectures are to be given daily, and the strictest discipline is to be maintained and a prescribed course to be gone through. As regards funds, the memorialist has headed the list with a year's salary, and liberal subscriptions have been received from the public-spirited men of the district. A suitable building has been obtained, and a President and Professors appointed whose names and qualifications are given at length.—Rescript: Let the Viceroy, Governor, and Literary Chancellor of the province place the matter on record in their archives, and hereafter in their official action observe the regulations thus settled.

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(4) Enclosure from Ting-an, requesting five months leave of absence for Lew Ching-fang, a military officer of the brevet rank of T'i-tu, on the occasion of the death of both his parents.—Rescript: Granted.

(5) From the same. Reporting the return to duty of the above and his thanks to the Throne.

Dec. 7th.—Edict.—Appointing the Governor and Criminal Judge of Honan, a commission to try the appeal case of Tsao Yung-chen.

(2) Memorial from the Governor of Kiangsu, praying for a mark of Imperial favour on a girl named Leen-ying, a native of Mu-yang-hsien, who had exhibited extraordinary filial devotion. Her father being very ill (having lost the use of his limbs from damp), she had secretly cut a piece of flesh from her arm and boiled it with his medicine, and the decoction had cured him. Next year he again fell sick and had to make a journey to Ch'ang-chow to consult a doctor, and his daughter insisted on accompanying him. During the journey he became worse and died, and the girl, refusing to live behind him, washed and dressed herself and deliberately took poison and died. The fact is attested by Lü Yen-wei and other gentry of the district.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites consider and report.

(3) From Ting Pao-chen, Governor of Shantung, asking a year's leave to visit his native Province, Kwei-chow, and put his family tombs in order, which have been sadly destroyed by the rebels there, who, he now learns, have been finally subdued. (This was granted in a former Edict.)

(4) From the Viceroy and Governor of Kwangtung, reporting for the usual mark of Imperial honor, the case of the mother of a military officer who has reached the venerable age of 101 years.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites consider and report.

(5) From the Gov. of Kiangsu, praying for the deofficialization of a T'u-sze named Lu Ta-neen, who had been mixed up in some local quarrels about the right to newly formed land, and had escaped when his evidence was wanted.—Rescript: Granted.

(6) From Viceroy and Gov. of Kiangsu appointing Tang Teh-chi Acting Prefect of Soochow, while the present incumbent goes to Peking to be presented at Court.

Dec. 8th.—(1) Edict.—The Censor Hu Chia-yu had memorialized the Throne charging the authorities of Kiangsi with levying excessive taxes, and Liu Kêm-i, the Governor, has replied denying the charge and bringing a counter charge against the Censor—to wit, that he and his nephew, being owners of about 600 or 700 mow of land in Kiangsi, have not paid taxes for 12 years, and also that he had gone out of his way to meddle in matters that did not concern him, and had written threatening letters to the Governor and others.—Hu Chia-yu is ordered to reply to this.

(2) Memorial from Wang K'ai-t'ai, the Governor of Fuhkien, reporting the success of certain new regulations which he had drawn up for conducting the 2nd degree examinations, by which order and regularity were better maintained, and the chances of the candidates cheating or getting their essays improved by the copyists, were diminished.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) From Chiao Sung-neen, the Eastern Superintendent of Inland Waterways, reporting on the possibility of getting the wood &c., formerly ordered for the repairs of the Temple of Heaven, transported to Peking by the old Grand Canal route. This route, though possible, would occupy a great deal of time, and he thinks after consulting with his subordinates that it will be better to bring the wood in steamers viâ Shanghai.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) From the same. Reporting on 15 Officers under his charge who had been, in accordance with custom, selected from the Chü-jên candidates failing to take their 3rd degree, for official services. Five had fulfilled their two years probation, and of these four had shown capabilities which made them worthy of being retained at their present duties of inspecting the Canals, &c., the others should be moved to an ordinary post of district magistrate.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service take note.

(5) From Viceroy and Gov. of Fukien, reporting on Shen Ken-yang, a new probationer of rank of sub-prefect in the province. He has been examined, and has shown great abilities and deserves to be promoted.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service take note.

(6) From Ying-han, Governor of Anhwei, reporting having got back to his own Capital after having been superintending the provincial Examinations at Nanking. (The Governors of Anhwei and Kiangsu take this duty in turns.) The arrears of public business have been worked off, and he has sent a number of military officers to the border districts of Hupeh, and hopes the threatened disturbance will be averted. He is happy to inform the Emperor that a good harvest has been gathered, and the agricultural people are all contented.—Rescript: Noted.

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Dec. 9th.—(1) Edict. Upon the representation of the Imperial Superintendent of Inland waterways, the Emperor decrees tablets to be erected in three temples in Shantung to the God of the Yellow river, for his goodness in not allowing the river to overflow, the danger of which was very imminent, and for answering the prayers of the Mandarins in sending water enough to fill the canals, and allow the rice boats to pass.

(2) Ordering Governor of Shensi to fill up vacancy of Prefect at Hsi-an-foo; Ting-hsiang to take the place of the appointee.

(3) Appointing the Gov. and Criminal Judge of Honan a commission to try an appeal case brought by Liu Ch'en-tsang.

(4) Memorial from the Gov. of Honan reporting on Chalafénya and others of the rank of sub-prefect, recently sent for service to his province. After the usual year's probation they have all proved themselves worthy of appointments.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service take note.

(5) From Li Hung-chang, proposing to appoint Chen Hsi-chi to the post of Magistrate at Ching-wan-hsien in Pao-ting-foo, with a long statement of his qualifications and services.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service consider and report.

(6) From the same, praying the Emperor to cancel the disciplinary penalties formerly inflicted on Wang K'un-yai, Magistrate of Tung-ming-hsien, for not arresting the guilty parties in a certain robbery. He has now succeeded in arresting the principal and 8 others, and brought them to trial. —Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note.

(7) From the Governor of Honan, Tai-Tso-i, Magistrate of Nei-hsiang, having failed to account to the Treasurer for 4,418 Tls. of Taxes received by him, was degraded by a former Edict. He has now paid up and shown himself penitent, and it is requested that his button be restored to him.—Rescript: Granted; let the Board of Service take note.

(8) From Ts'ang-tsun at present a Ts'an-ts'an at Ulissutai, and acting Commander-in-Chief of the Manchu army, stating under what circumstances he had taken a loan from the military chest of 1,800 Taels for his own use, and begging that he may be allowed to repay it in instalments from his salary.—Rescript: Granted; the Board of Revenue to take note.

Dec. 10th.—(1) A monthly Gazette of changes in the Civil Service.

(2) A long memorial from Chiao Sung-nien, Superintendent of Inland Waterways, giving a detailed report of the state of the embankment of the Yellow River and Grand Canal, and pointing out the places where repairs are requisite from Lan-i in Honan downwards. A previous Edict had ordered the construction of flood dykes in the low districts about Tung-ming, &c., and he discusses the ways and means of carrying this out. If the work is to be undertaken at Government expense a sum of at least 300,000 taels will be required, and the first thing is to apply to the Board of Revenue to see whether in the present state of finances such a sum can be spared. If it can, then a survey must be made by the high authorities and the precise lines marked off. The memorialist does not seem to favour this method; for the common people, he says, not respecting Government property, officers would have to be appointed to watch it, and execute repairs which would be a constant expense to Government; and not like the old plan, when the local authorities called upon the people according to circumstances to exert themselves and avert impending danger.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

(4) P'éng Yu-ling, a former President of the Board of War, now on a special tour of inspection of the naval forces on the Inland waters, gives a long report of his visit and the state of discipline which he found to exist.—Rescript: Noted.

Dec. 11.—(1) Edict.—The Censor Hoo Chin-yü has replied to the memorial of Liu K'un-i (see Gazette 8th Dec.,) stating that he does not possess 100 mow of land in Kiangsi, the rest having been divided between his father and younger brothers; that he has not paid taxes because the land being almost constantly under water, he is entitled to exemption; that as regards the correspondence, it was Liu K'un-i that began it, and he only replied; and that the allegation of his writing threatening letters is false.—H. M. gives them both a reprimand, the Gov. for using too hasty language in his memorial, and the Censor for corresponding about public matters with the local authorities of his native province. The former is further ordered to reply as to the truth of the new facts alleged.

(2 & 4) Memorials from the Governor of Shantung, reporting acting appointments consequent on the retirement of the Salt Commissioner which was allowed in a former Edict.

(3) From the Governor of Honan, reporting changes in the distribution of the provincial troops. Fresh recruits sent to the border districts for service.—Rescript: Noted.

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(5) From the Governor of Shantung. Wên-ping, a Magistrate of Yang-ku in Shantung, had been killed by the Taiping rebels many years ago, and a temple erected by Imperial decree to him and others as a reward for the virtues and loyalty they had displayed. The temple had fallen into disrepair, and the local gentry and others have subscribed money and rebuilt and enlarged it, and the memorialist has at the request of the gentry ordered that the local mandarins should worship there at the spring and autumn festivals every year, and that the necessary expenses be yearly provided by the magistrate of the district.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

(6) From the same, forwarding a list of officers who have distinguished themselves lately and particularly this year in deepening the Grand Canal about Têh-chow, and facilitating the passage of the rice fleet from Northern Kiang-soo. 480 boats passed up this year very quickly.—Rescript: Let the list be sent to the proper Board to consider and report.

(7) The Governor of Honan reports the arrival of the Annam Tribute-bearers. They passed on all well.

(8) Li Hung-chang reports their having arrived in Peking.—Rescript: Noted.

Dec. 12th.—(1) Edict. Several appointments in the lower ranks of the service.

(2) Ordering Tso-tsung-tang, Viceroy of Kansuh, to inquire into and report the particulars of the death of a Sub-Prefect named Chêng-shun, who died for his country while fighting against the Mahommedan rebels 6 years ago. A memorial asking for a temple to his memory had been presented by the Censorate.

(3) Ordering a petty officer in Peking to be restored to his original rank, from which he had been degraded for not arresting certain thieves.

(4) From Ting Pao-chen, Gov. of Shantung, a long memorial reporting what steps he has taken for improving the Salt revenue. Several years ago the revenue had fallen off, through smuggling and the impoverished character of the people, and he had adopted the system of deputing officers through the southern part of the province, with power to grant advances to merchants to enable them to bring Salt, which had proved a success. The money advanced for the experiment had been nearly all repaid, and the memorialist is trying the same plan for a circuit of towns in the eastern part, and asks an advance of 90,000 taels from the Board of Revenue for this purpose.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(5) From the same, praying that the Revenue from the Salt-Gabelle in Shantung, which hitherto has been fixed at 500,000 Taels, may under the circumstances be reduced to 400,000 for a term of five years. Last year's net revenue was only 308,000 Tls.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

Dec. 13th.—(1) Edict.—It having been brought to the notice of the Emperor that the 2nd degree Examination Hall at Peking is too small for the numbers that come forward, the proper Board is ordered to draw up rules, limiting the number of candidates that may be sent forward from the provinces by the Literary Chancellor, for examination, &c.

(2) Granting to three high officers the privilege of riding on horseback within the precincts of the Imperial City, Peking.

(3) From the Governor of Shansi, asking that two petty officials, who have distinguished themselves in repressing salt smuggling at two of the frontier barriers, may be put *the very* first on the list for promotion in their respective classes.—Rescript: Granted.

(4) From the same, reporting that he has caused two Magistrates to exchange places for particular reasons.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service take note.

(5) From the same, reporting having appointed Ch'ang-hsing acting Fu-tseang at Sha-hu-hsee, the previous incumbent having retired from ill-health.

(6) From the same, reporting that it had been discovered that the Magistrate of Yung-chi was holding office within 500 *li* of his paternal home, contrary to law, and proposing that he should in consequence be made to exchange places with the Magistrate of Tu-t'ung, which would be a suitable arrangement. (By law a mandarin may not hold office in his own province, nor even in an adjoining province if his Yamên is within 530 *li* of his parents' home.)—Rescript: Let the Board of Service consider and report.

Dec. 14th.—(1) A Gazette of promotions in the service.

(2) A supplementary memorial from Tsing-lun, Commander of the Manchu forces in Urumtsi, reporting what arrangements he has made, to make the courier service more efficient on the road north of Kuch'eng. His former proposals had to be departed from, owing to the impossibility of getting forage for the horses in the desert of Gobi, part of which has to be traversed.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

(3) From the same.—He had previously asked for a reinforcement of 1,000 cavalry

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from Chili and Heilungtseang, and now reports their arrival with only 20 odd casualties. Their horses, however, nearly all came to grief on the way, only 300 odd surviving, but he has endeavoured to supply the deficiency. The Tu-liang of Chalanarh sent 2,000 baggage camels with them many of which were in a very sad plight, but he has taken measures to have them fed up, so as to be of further service.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) From the same, reporting his having sent supplies to the troops at Hami (although beyond his jurisdiction) as he had heard that all their store of provisions had been carried off by the Mahommedan rebels.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) From the Gov. of Shantung, proposing Kwo Ting-kwei, at present Magistrate of Yeh hsien, for Magistrate in the prefectural city of T'ai-an, a difficult and responsible post.—Rescript: Let the Board of Service consider and report.

(6) From the same. During the recent floods on the Yellow River near Yün Ch'eng-hsien, the water had broken out, and the officials and people to the number of thousands were assembled endeavouring to stop the disaster in vain. In despair they knelt on their knees in the mud and prayed, and suddenly the spirit of the departed Li was seen to rise out of the river and, after hovering about for a little, vanished in a westerly direction. As it hovered, the waves and whirlpools became still, the water seemed to retire along with it, and the wind and rain ceased. The people took advantage of the lull, and after working with energy for two days and two nights succeeded in damming up the breach. The memorialist has made careful inquiry into the facts, and finds there is no doubt about them. It was entirely to this timely intervention of the spirit that the disasters were averted. The spirit was that of Li Yu-mei, a Superintendent of the Yellow River in the time of Ta Kuang, who was greatly distinguished in his time and whose spirit has ever since been a benefactor to the people. As a reward, H. M. is now asked to canonize him in due form.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report.

Dec. 15th.—(5) Edict. Granting the troops in Peking two months longer, to refund the advances they had got.

(2) Appointing four officers to superintend the distribution of some Imperial bounty to the troops.

(3) Ordering the Board of Punishments to investigate the case of Lo-yu-fûng, a clerk in the Board of Civil Service, charged with having suppressed an order to place a certain Tu-sze, named Sze Chien-ling on the list for promotion, because the latter refused to pay him a squeeze.

(4) An appeal case of Tsao Chin-ling, to be disposed of by the Commander-in-Chief of Moukden with others.

(5) A monthly list of changes among the Provincial Literary Examiners.

(6) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Kansuh, has succeeded in recapturing the city of Suichow in Western Kansuh, which for ten years has been in the hands of the Mohammedan rebels. This is a long edict, bestowing rewards and honours on several hundred officers of all ranks, in the army engaged. Tso Tsung-t'ang himself is made a Tu wei of the first-class—a hereditary distinction.

(7) Memorial from Wu T'ang, Viceroy of Szechuen, reporting the acting magistrate of Yun-lun and others, for carelessness in allowing a prisoner under sentence of death for murder to escape while being conveyed from the provincial capital to his native district. He has ordered a strict investigation to see that there has been no bribery.—Rescript: Orders the officials concerned to be handed over to the Board, for the proper discipline.

(8) From the same, reporting the trial, conviction and execution of an atrocious murderer named Yang Ma-tze. The victims were three nuns of the Taoist religion, who lived together as one family in a temple outside the provincial capital, one of them being a distant relation of the murderer. He had lived a vagabond sort of life, always asking for money from the nuns, and one evening he came asking as usual, and they refused—the two parties abusing one another freely. He then begged hard for a lodging for the night, and they at last allowed him to sleep in the kitchen. During the night he rose, murdered them all, and decamped with their cash, wounding a servant girl in his exit. He was arrested, tried and found guilty. The law in such cases of killing a family wholesale is that the criminal himself be put to death at once, with slow torture, without waiting for Imperial decree, his goods to be divided among the relatives of the victims, and his sons or nephews banished for ever to a distance of 2,000 li. As far as concerns himself this has been carried out, but he has no property and no relations for the latter part to take effect.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment take note.

Dec. 16th.—(1) Edict.—Two appointments in the Censorate.

(2) Memorial from Yiyung, the Commander-in-Chief at Chilin in Manchuria, reporting on T'ung Teh-tsung, whose 3 years

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service in the Judicial department there has just expired, and asking that the proper Board may be ordered to send a substitute, so that he may repair to the Capital and be presented according to regulation. —Rescript: Let it be as requested; let the Board take note.

(3) Memorial from the Commander-in-Chief of the Manchu garrison at Hwei-yuen and the Gov. of Shansi. The former had established a Board for the better supply of his commissariat, at the head of which was a Taotai named Kwoying. One of his subordinates had accused him of embezzlement, and he had hastily replied with a petition to his superior denying the charge, &c. The case has been thoroughly investigated and the charges shown to be groundless. It is prayed that the accuser be deprived of his rank, but that the Taotai be also reprimanded for hastily petitioning and not quietly awaiting an investigation.—Rescript: Grants both requests; the proper Board to fix the discipline.

Dec. 17th.—(1) Memorial from Viceroy and Governor of Fukien, proposing to appoint Sie Pao-tieng, of the rank of Sub-Prefect, to be *Hai-fang* at Lo-erh-men, near Tai-wan-foo. This officer had originally been appointed to Shantung province, but having gone to Fukien to take charge of the Likin office there for the war in Kansuh, he had elected to remain, and had been favourably spoken of by his Superior.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(2) From Li Tsung-hsi, Viceroy of the Two Kiang, proposing to effect an exchange between two *Yu-che*, both under the Ch'en-t'ai of Soochow and Sungkiang, as being more suitable to the respective qualities of the men.—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(3) From the same, reporting on the case of a Magistrate of Ch'ang-hwa in Formosa, who had been dismissed from the service for gross mismanagement of two cases of murder. He had himself executed the criminals without sending the cases forward for examination to his superiors, and it was suspected that there was probably a case of substitution undisclosed. The report acquits him of that, and as he has already been degraded no further steps need be taken.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(4) From Viceroy of the Two Kiang and Governor of Kiangsu, proposing Seu-chun-fu to be Magistrate of Ch'ang-shu-hsien, an important charge as being on the Coast.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

Dec. 18.—(1) An Edict referring the appeal case of Lew Ch'eng-wen and others to Wan Ching-li, a President of the Board of Ceremonies, and the Prefect of Shun-tun-foo, for determination.

(2) A long memorial of 22 pages from Liu K'un-i, Governor of Kiangsi, regarding the matters in dispute between him and the Censor Hu-chia-yü. The substance of the document appeared in the Edict which was printed in the Gazette of Dec. 8.

Dec. 19.—(1) Edict. A supplementary Gazette (see Dec. 15) of honours and rewards in consequence of the victories in Kansuh. Chinshun, the Manchu Commander-in-chief, has his yellow jacket peacock's feather &c., of which he had formerly been deprived, returned to him; and several officers who had assisted the operations, though not actually engaged, are promoted.

(2) Memorial from Hu Chin-yu, the Censor, the gist of which appeared in Edict of Dec. 11.

(3) From Wingan, a Shih-lang in the Board of Punishment of Sheng-king, asking for the appointment of an associate to assist in determining two cases that he had been commissioned to try by Imperial Edict—one, that of an official in the Household for extortion, and the other that of a late military official at Newchwang for defalcations in his accounts. Rescript: —Let Chihho (a Shih-lang in the Board of Revenue of the same domain) be associated in the trial of the cases.

(4) Lingan and Chihho (Shih-lang in two of the Boards in Sheng-king) report having completed the repairs to the Imperial Mausolea, and on the lucky day selected for the purpose replaced the Tablets in position. Rescript:—Noted.

Dec. 20th.—(1) Edict appointing Tsung-huan to be Foo-tu-t'ung at Alitanea vice Haiying retired in ill health.

(2) A long memorial from Wu K'o-tu, a member of the Censorate, the substance of which appeared in the corresponding edict printed in Gazette of Dec. 12th. The subject of the memorial, Cheng-shun, had had the courage to undertake the difficult charge of Sub-Prefect of Kwei-teh in Western Kansuh, where Mahommedans, Chinese and foreign tribes were all at loggerheads with one another. In a short time he had reduced the district to peace and security, and was beloved by everybody, when the rebels invaded the place. He had been left almost without support, and before assistance could reach him the city was taken and his yamen attacked. Here he mustered what followers he could, and with a sword in one hand and a pistol in

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the other, made a vigorous defence, killing numbers, and died at last with ten thousand wounds. His wife, younger brothers and sons were all murdered. The memorialist, being a Kansuh man, knows the facts and therefore prays the Emperor to award him posthumous honors.

Dec. 21st.—(1) An Edict on a memorial by Fang-shih (Commandant at Jeh-ho) praying for an investigation and punishment in a case of giving a false bond by some officers. The particular facts of the case do not appear without the original memorial, which is not yet made public; but three petty officers, known as *Fang-yü* or Custodians, are deprived of rank, and one is to be canged two months as a terror to all similar evil-doers.

(2) An appeal case from the Censorate. The appellant is a graduate named Tsao-shu from Honan, and complains that, in 1861, a band of Nienfei headed by one Wên-lung attacked and burnt down his village and murdered over 300 of his relatives or clansmen, including his mother, brothers, &c., and desecrated their family graves. The Nienfei disappeared; but after 7 years Wên-lung turned up again, and appellant laid his case before the Magistrate; but bribery and power were on the other side and he only got himself more and more into difficulties. At last he sent his son to Peking to bring this appeal.—Rescript has already appeared (Dec. 7).

(3) Another appeal case from Honan, in which the appellant charges that one Ch'ang San-yu and others had by violence carried off his cousin's wife and debauched her, and that the same parties, upon a dispute about money matters, had seized his father and beaten him to death. By bribery they had got the Magistrate's officers who held the inquest, to return a verdict of suicide by strangulation, and had by the same means managed to pervert the course of justice. They had offered him money if he would hush the matter up. Failing to get redress from the provincial Authorities, he had come to Peking.—Edict has already appeared (ordering an investigation.)

(4) From Chiao Sung-nien. For the substance of this see Edict (1) of 9th Dec.

(5) From the same, praying that a Taotai named Wang Hwa-t'ang may be allowed to remain a year longer at his post, as his services are very valuable.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take notice.

Dec. 22nd.—(1) Memorial from Teh-ying, Commander-in-chief at Hei-lung-chiang in Manchuria, and another, asking for the deofficialization of Kalania and others, petty military officers, in order to their trial on a charge of horse-stealing.—Rescript: Grants the request.

(2) Memorial from Liu K'un-i, Governor of Kiangsi, giving strong reasons against the proposition to require the taxes in his province to be sent to Peking in grain, either in whole or in part, instead of in silver as at present. This proposal seems to have originated with Le Hung-chang, who thought the grain might be sent to Shanghai and conveyed north by the steamers of the China Merchants' Company. The objections are (1) that if the new plan were adopted throughout the province, it would be an intolerable increase of taxation, the difference between the commutation rate and the market price being considerable, and it would be invidious to make one district pay in grain and another in cash; (2) the loss of grain from frequent transhipment; and (3) the expense to the province of forwarding it to Shanghai. He therefore requests that the former system of paying in money may be continued.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note

Dec. 23rd.—(1) Memorial from Gov. of Honan, asking that the usual discipline may be inflicted on the Magistrate of Ju-yang and his subordinates, for allowing a prisoner under sentence of death for murder, to escape. He had broken out of prison during a night of wind and rain, but was recaptured again 3 days afterwards in Anhwei.—Edict has already appeared ordering the memorialist to investigate the case and see whether there was not bribery at the bottom of it. The Magistrate in the meantime to be degraded &c.

(2) From the same, reporting an acting appointment.

(3) From the same, reporting the unusual rise of the Yellow River last summer, which flooded the district of Mêng-hsing and threatened to inundate the Tombs of the Emperors of the Han dynasty. He had, however, taken effective steps to prevent this, and also to secure them in future, and had distributed relief among the suffering population.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) From the Commandant of Jeh-ho, reporting his having investigated the case of two Magistrates of Chao-yang, who were charged with issuing indiscriminately warrants of arrest to unprincipled headmen, which had been the cause of much of the recent disorders. A great deal of correspondence had passed on the subject, and he finds that Li-wei-k'un had been guilty of negligence in so doing and ought to be reprimanded; but the other, Wên Po-men, had no hand in it, and his former re-

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primand ought to be cancelled.—Rescript: Grants as requested.

(5), (6) and (7) From the same.

(5) Sending, in obedience to Imperial Edict, a list of officers who have distinguished themselves in repressing the banditti in the wild country East of Moukden, and proposing rewards or posthumous honours for those who have fallen.

(6) Reporting that he had sent Wên Po-nien (referred to in 4) to another district, as being better suited to his character.

(7) Reporting for good conduct and great ability the Taotai of Jeh-ho, and asking that he may be rewarded.—The Rescripts grant the prayer.

Dec. 24th.—(1) Edict.—A Gazette of promotion and changes in the civil service.

(2) Memorials from Suh Pi and another, Under-Censors for the northern division of the Capital, asking that a police officer, Hwang Shih-chi, may have the button restored of which he had been deprived, for not arresting thieves. He has now caught them.—Rescript granting this has already appeared.

(3) Memorial from the Literary Chancellor of Shing-king. For this see Edict (1) of Dec. 13th where it is sufficiently quoted.

(4) An enclosure from the same, proposing alterations in the present regulations for the 2nd Degree Examinations in Peking, in 8 articles:—

1.—The number of copyists must be increased.

2.—Rewards should be given to the best officers who are employed in the responsible duties of receiving, sealing, copying and comparing the Student's Essays.

3.—The four look-out towers in the corners must be repaired and officers sit there and watch.

4.—Greater strictness must be observed among the examiners. The walls must be built higher, to prevent the possibility of communication between the Students and Examiners.

5.—Notification must be made beforehand as to what doors the candidates are to enter by.

6.—Intending competitors' names must be notified, and none received after a fixed date several days prior to the examination.

7.—The City Commandant should send more soldiers to keep order.

8.—Candidates from the Kuo-tze-chien who have entered that body on the reduced scale of fees, must pay the full amount before being allowed to compete.

The propositions have been refered to the proper Board for consideration.

(5) A Manchu Officer, Tsaitiao, reports himself as having taken charge during the month's leave of absence of his superior, in mourning.—Rescript: Noted.

Dec. 25th.—(1) Edict. Chang-shun, Tartar General in Uljasutai, having reported a series of victories gained by Cholinga, in which the banditti that of late have infested Kupuchih Kolo in that province were utterly routed and destroyed, it is ordered that Cholinga be restored to the rank of which he was formerly deprived, and that a list of those who distinguished themselves or fell in fight be sent in for rewards.

(2) A memorial having been presented to the Throne by Wu Ko-tu, an under-Censor, setting out the noble and patriotic conduct of one Chi-ting, a sub-Prefect, who seven years ago, when the Mohammedan rebels besieged his native town, Kung-chang foo in Kansuh, subscribed funds and undertook the defence till he died of exhaustion on the walls, it is ordered that a Temple be erected to his memory, and that the Tablets of those of his family and assistants who died at the same time have a place therein also.—Notice is taken of some inaccuracies in this Censor's memorials—writing the character 叙 for 郵 &c.

(3 and 4) Memorials from the Viceroy and Governor of Fokien proposing Fu Tsung-pin for the post of Magistrate of Fu-tsing, and Fan-ching-shang for that of Chang-pu.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(5) An appeal from the Censorate. The appellant Tsao Ching-lung states that he cultivates a piece of reclaimed land in Ching hsien near Moukden, on which it was agreed he should pay taxes at the rate of a string of *cash* a *mow*: that a clerk in the district revenue office named Wang Lu-yun, in concert with a military officer named Seu-yung-teh, had of late been extorting 600 or 700 *cash* a *mow* extra, and had been demanding Taxes from him and others for land neither owned nor cultivated by them. He had also been summoned before the magistrate, and it was only by paying a bribe of 125,000 *cash* that the case was dropped, for which he had to mortgage his land. He endeavoured to go to the Provincial Capital to complain, but his persecutor getting wind of it prevented it by force of arms, and so he had come to Peking, &c.—Edict ordering an investigation has already appeared.

(6) Memorial from Censorate respecting an alleged case of extortion by a clerk in the Board of Civil Service (see Edict (3) of 15th Dec.)

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26th Dec —(1) Edict appointing Chiyuen chief of the T'ai-ch'ang-sze yamen—the Imperial Sacrificial Department.

(2) Memorial from the Tartar General of Kirin, reporting the capture and execution of a lot of mounted Brigands, who had formerly burnt and destroyed several small military stations. A long account is given of the difficulties he had to encounter in doing so.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment take note.

(2) From the same, reporting a similar capture on the borders of Kirin and Shengking provinces. The difficulty with these formerly was that, when pursued in one province they crossed the the border into the other, where the pursuers could not follow them, it being beyond their jurisdiction; and so the thieves had always got off; but he had not scrupled to overstep this rule for the public good, and had caught and executed them wherever he found them.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment take note.

Dec. 27.—(1) Memorial from Li Han-chang, Viceroy of Hunan and Hupei, proposing a competent officer for the post of Futsiang (Brigadier-General) at Yung-sui in the Miaotze territory, a difficult charge. —Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(2) From the same, asking for 3 months leave of absence for Hwang Tsung-yuen, a General at E-chang, on the ground of ill-health, and appointing T'ang Jui-ting to act in his absence.—Rescript: Granted.

(3) From Hsie Wei-fan, the new Literary Chancellor of Shansi, reporting his arrival at his post, and his having in due form taken over the seals of office with incense-burning and thanksgiving for His Majesty's goodness. He will endeavour to deserve it by diligence in his new post. —Rescript: Noted.

(4) From the Governor of Kwei-chow, reporting several acting appointments. —Rescript: Noted.

(5) From Fei Yen-li, the new Literary Chancellor of Honan, reports his arrival at his post in much the same terms as (3). He takes the opportunity to add that he observed, as he passed through Chihli and Honan, that the harvest was everywhere abundant, a fact which will be gratifying to His Imperial Majesty.

(6) From Li Han-chang, stating that an officer serving under him, named Suh Ting-pang, had in early life been adopted by his maternal uncle, who was childless; that his own brother has now died childless, thus leaving his original family without male descendants, and according to law he is bound to resume his original family name of Tsan, and perform the sacrificial duties due to his own parents. Leave to do so is accordingly asked for. —Rescript: Granted as requested.

(7) Governor of Honan asks two months' leave on behalf of a Literary Examiner, to go and visit his mother. The gentleman has to go to Peking at any rate, and proposes to take steamer down the Yangtze to Shanghai, and thence to Ningpo (where his mother lives), which is an expeditious mode of travelling.—Rescript: Granted.

Dec. 28.—(Edict.) The Emperor in person will on the 30th and 31st Dec. visit the Temple of Heaven and six other temples named, to pray for rain, which is much required.

(2) The Censor Têng Ching-ling having memorialised the Throne asking that two appeal cases which had been ranging on for years, and in which it did not appear that justice had yet been done, might either be referred to the Board of Punishments or that a high officer might be specially deputed to try them—His Majesty remarks that the Censorate was established for the purpose of receiving all complaints of the people, and there had never been delays in listening to any complaints so presented, but the case was at once referred to the Viceroy and Governor of the particular province, with whom was associated the Criminal Judge in capital cases; and if the local authorities failed to do justice, it would be his duty then to hand them over to the Board of Punishments. The two cases in question were only ordinary ones, and the memorialist must remember that the Viceroys of Provinces were high officers responsible to him for their decisions; and to depute a special high Commission to go and try every case would be an undignified method of government. The proposition is so unreasonable that it need not be considered. Therefore, Li Hung-chang is ordered in the usual way personally to try the two cases from Tsun Hwa-chow, and report; and hereafter all Viceroys, &c., must be careful to hear such appeal cases in person, and not by deputy, and decide them equitably, in accordance with the wish of His Majesty, which reaches to the wrongs of the humblest of his people.

(3) Edict referring the appeal case of Lu Chien-chi to the Viceroy and Government of Kiangsu for their decision.

(4) This and the following Gazette are filled with a long account from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Viceroy of Kansuh, and the Tartar General, of the recapture of Suh-chow from the Mohammedan Rebels. The city was besieged from the 1st of 7th moon for over two months, desperate fighting going on in the meantime, till the rebels had to sur-

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render for want of food. They had only 70 odd horses in the city, the rest having been all eaten, but vast quantities of arms of all kinds were captured. Nine of the chiefs—most of whom bear the name of Ma—were hacked to pieces, and over 4,000 of minor degree were shot or burnt or stabbed or otherwise slain. These were parties whose names had been procured from the rebel-chiefs themselves, as being the most prominent in the rebel ranks. (See Gazette of Dec. 15 for the Edict.)

Dec. 29th.—(1) On the 24th of the 2nd moon of next year, His Majesty, along with the Empress-dowager and Empress-mother, will set out for the Imperial mausolea, to perform the usual sacrificial rites. Ordinary business will be transacted by each yamen till his return.

(2) A memorial having been received from T'ehlunpu, the military Commissioner in Cobdo, reporting the extirpation of a horde of banditti, various rewards and honours are bestowed on those who have distinguished themselves.

Dec. 30th.—(1) Memorial from the Viceroy and Governor of Kiangsoo, reporting favourably of an Expectant Taotai named T'sai Sze-pao (formerly in the Tsung-li Yamén), who has recently joined the provincial staff of officials.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(2) From Liu K'un-i, Governor of Kiangsi, reporting that Mei Yu-han, magistrate of Lo-ping, has at last succeeded in arresting the thieves who some years ago broke into a cash shop in that city, and asking that his button, of which he was then deprived for his negligence, may be now restored to him.—Rescript: Grants the petition as prayed. Let the Board take note.

(3) From the Governor of Kiangsoo, reporting the case of 21 shipwrecked Coreans. On the 14th Sept. they were washed ashore at Hai-mên, having been drifting about for 3 weeks in a helpless condition. They were kindly taken care of and sent to Shanghai, where the Taotai procured them passages to Tientsin by steamer. As their language was unintelligible, they were asked to write down their names and business, &c. 11 were merchants, the rest sailors.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites take note.

31st Dec.—(1) This is a long Edict apportioning various degrees of punishment among several clerks in the Yamén at Hangchow, for the supply of silk to the Imperial Household, who had been guilty of embezzlement and various other misdeeds. The whole case had been sent for investigation to the Board of Punishment, whose report is now before His Majesty. The chief offender, named Sun-chin, is ordered 100 blows of the heavy bamboo and to be banished for 3,000 *li*. His accuser, Han Pu-hwa, having been guilty of carrying his plaint to the Tartar General while the case was still under investigation by the Criminal Judge, and of having fraudulently purchased an official rank, he not being entitled to that privilege, &c., &c., is ordered 100 blows without benefit of buying himself off, and to be sent to his native district, to be there kept under official surveillance. Several other parties are more or less severely dealt with; even the Tartar General is to be reprimanded for having received the plaint of Han Pu-hwa.

(2) Referring the appeal case of Li Kwang-chiang to the Viceroy and Governor of Kiangsoo, for determination.

(3) The appeal case of Wen Sên-ling in like manner referred to the Governor and Judge of Honan.

(4) An appeal case from the Censorate. Appellant, by name Liu Cheng-wên, a native of Pao-chih hsien in Chihli, alleges as follows:—His father's elder brother had a concubine named Shen, who so badly treated his (petitioner's) brother's wife that she died. The affair was smoothed over by friends of the family; Shen was turned out of doors, and the brother's child, by name Shih-erh, was handed over to his grand uncle, the elder brother above named, to be brought up. But after some years Shen turned up again, along with her daughter and son-in-law, whose name was Wang, and had such influence over the old man that he turned his lawful wife (petitioner's aunt) out of doors, and married young Shih-erh to somebody against the will of his other relatives. Not content with that, Shen, who had got in league with a sorceress, took opportunity when the old man was ill, to administer some cakes to Shih-erh which caused violent pains, vomiting of blood, and death. Thereupon Wang and his wife hastily rifled the house of money and clothes and decamped. The local authorities had been appealed to once and again, but by false swearing and bribery on the part of Wang, not even an inquest had been held. Grief at hearing all this had caused his uncle's death, and failing to get redress elsewhere, he had brought this appeal to Peking on behalf of his aunt the widow.—Rescript has already appeared.

(5) From the Commandant of Tâh-hu, proposing Ch'en Pên-tao to be Magistrate at Chao-yang.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(6) From the Literary Chancellor of Szechuen, asking for three months' leave of absence to repair his family burying ground.—Rescript: Granted.

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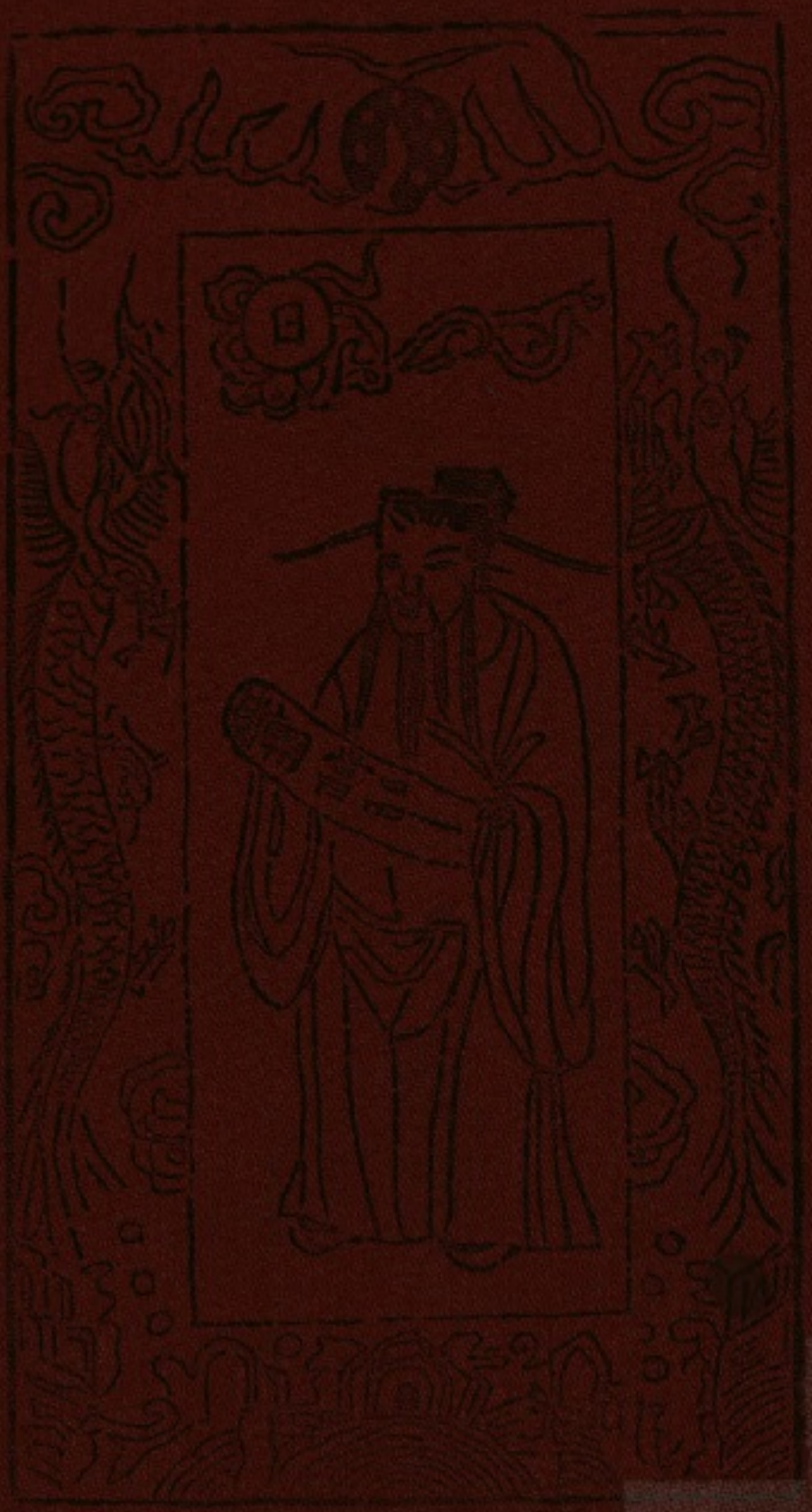

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